■ Entertainment / A28

Where in the world is 'Genghis Khan'? Film archivists want to know

■ Across / A16

RP remains free of bird flu, tests in Bulacan duck farm show

■ World / A10

Iraq reels from suicide bombing blitz

■ News / A2

CBCP formula: Truth Commission, then impeachment

■ Sports / A21

Tiger Woods wins British Open for 10th Grand Slam title

GMA apologizes, this time to Kris

By Christine O. Avendaño

ONCE AGAIN, President Macapagal-Arroyo apologized on Sunday, this time to Kris Aquino, for the offensive remarks made last week by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez against the popular actress and TV host.

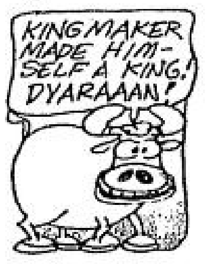
"I'm sorry, I'm sorry about what happened,"

GMA/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Ramos, De Venecia now control Palace, says Drilon

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau


KINGMAKER MADE HIM-SELF A KING! DYARAAAN!

ILOILO CITY—Former President Fidel Ramos is not the kingmaker but the king in Malacañang, according to Senate Presi-

RAMOS/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

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2 more GMA execs quit

NEW TEAM. President Macapagal-Arroyo swears in new Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and new Budget Secretary Romulo Neri.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Say President failed to deliver reforms

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Leila B. Salaverria

MALACAÑANG officials have dismissed as part of psywar tactics and black propaganda by President Macapagal-Arroyo's detractors any news of resignations from the Cabinet in addition to the desertion by the so-called "Hyatt 10" that included her entire economic team.

But yesterday, two more Palace officials—Vicky Garchitorena, presidential consultant on good governance and poverty alleviation, and Corazon Guidote, presidential consultant on investor relations—made public their permanent break from the administration.

Their confirmation of their irrevocable resignation came 11 days after seven Cabinet secretaries and three agency heads, known as the "Hyatt 10," quit and asked Ms Arroyo to do the same.

Among those who quit were Cesar Purisima as finance secretary and Emilia Boncodin as budget secretary—two officials well-respected by the international community.

The Hyatt 10 said Ms Arroyo had been crippled by the election scandal and had lost her ability to push for reforms. The President has been accused of stealing the May 2004 vote.

On Sunday, the presidential communications director, Silvestre Afable, stepped down, but he stayed on in his other post as chief peace negotiator with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a group fighting for an independent Islamic state in Mindanao.

Apparently unaware of the resignation of Garchitorena and Guidote, presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio branded as "black propaganda" reports of further resignations from the Cabinet.

"You can be sure that this is ... a way to boost the confidence of those against the

2 MORE/ A4

GUIDOTE: Concerned about economy

GARCHITORENA: I want to speak freely.

GMA's Sona may mention Garci tape

By Leila B. Salaverria and TJ Burgonio

EVEN though the public may have heard enough of it, President Macapagal-Arroyo's explanation about her disastrous phone call to an election official last year may appear in her State of the Nation Address.

"The explanation has been made several times ... but maybe for emphasis it may be repeated in the Sona," said Gabriel Claudio, chief of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office.

Some opposition leaders—notably Senators Panfilo Lacson and Sergio Osmeña III—said they would boycott the July 25 joint session of Congress. Some House members were supposedly even planning a walkout. *(See related story on Page A8.)*

The presidential address will also be a reunion among Ms Arroyo and her erstwhile close allies in the Senate which neither side probably will relish.

When she delivers her speech, the President should expect to see three rebels from her ruling coalition—Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

The three Liberal Party senators had been among Ms Arroyo's most trusted allies in the upper chamber until they broke away from her and called for her resignation on July 8.

The rebellious trio yesterday

GMA'S SONA/ A8

Impeach issues: Cheating, lying, stealing

By Philip C. Tubeza, TJ Burgonio, Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet Labog-Javellana

OPPOSITION lawmakers yesterday announced they had the numbers to push through impeachment proceedings against President Macapagal-Arroyo for allegedly "cheating, lying and stealing."

Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said the opposition planned to file its case on Thursday—four days before Congress reconvenes on July 25.

The President, battling for political survival in the face of the worst political crisis of her four-year-old presidency, will make a State of the Nation Address before Congress next Monday.

Her opponents promised to mobilize their biggest protest yet outside the session hall to force the Chief Executive to step down in the wake of charges her family received illegal lottery payoffs and disclosures of a bugged telephone conversation allegedly showing she rigged the May 2004 elections.

Ms Arroyo has apologized for talking to an election official during the balloting but denies committing a crime. She says she will never give up her office and challenged her opponents to impeach her instead.

Opposition lawmakers, who initially described impeachment as a trap because they were in the minority, yesterday said they had 75 to 80 supporters of their case. A vote by a third of the 236-member House, or 78, would lead to the automatic transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate.

IMPEACH/ A7

Turf war ruined Palace PR strategy, says Afable

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LONG BEFORE he quit his post, resigned Communications Director Silvestre Afable had been agonizing over a turf war within his team, which led to a fragmented, aimless public relations strategy for the woman they vowed to serve.

"There are turf issues, but they are not big problems. We need turf play just enough to keep the adrenaline up but not so much as to cause fragmentation, duplication or waste," Afable said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

Afable sent the e-mail in May shortly after leaders of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines went to Malacañang and offered their services for free to help President Macapagal-Arroyo improve her image.

"I can't go into the specific turf issues because I am dealing with peers in rank and it would be unfair to them. Every organization has to manage its turf," he said.

Aside from Afable, the Office of the Communications Director (OCD) has three other members with Cabinet rank—Press Secretary and Ms Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, Secretary Cerge Remonde for government broadcast stations, and Secretary

TURF/ A4

Worst over for RP debt, says poll; peso, stocks up

AS POLITICAL tensions eased, a slew of positive news yesterday emerged on the economic front.

- The peso climbed to a three-week high against the dollar while local stocks rose for the third straight trading day.
- The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) also reported a balance of payments (BOP) surplus of $343 million in May, reversing a deficit of $407 million in the same month last year.
- In a Reuters survey, four out of 10 regional traders picked Philippine bonds as their top choice among Asian issuers.
- The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 12.17 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,909.25, its highest finish so far this month. The broader All Shares Index finished 4.13 points up Monday at 1,162.22 after advancing 10.90 points Friday.

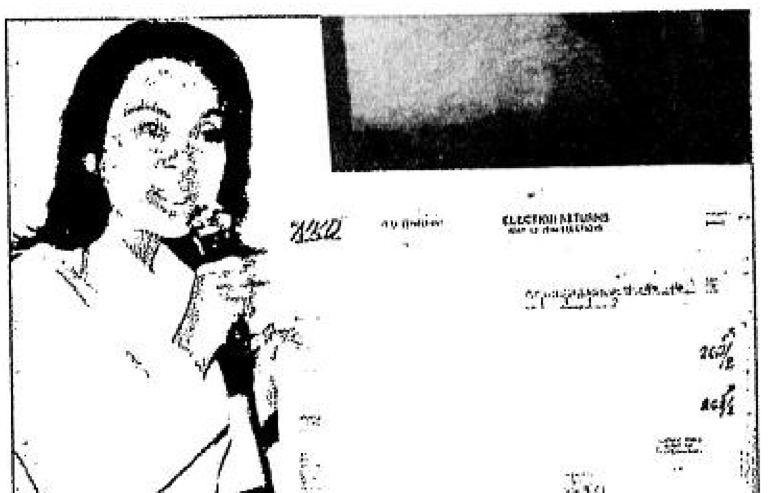
Gainers beat decliners 34 to 27, while 45 stocks were unchanged.

Stock traders said there were indications the Supreme Court might soon lift the suspension on the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law, the centerpiece of the government's fiscal reform program. Second-quarter corporate earnings were also expected to be robust.

Still, investors remained cautious. "The path ahead remains bumpy due to political uncertainties," said BPI Securities senior manager Roberto Cano.

The opposition, which has accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of cheating her way to victory in the 2004 election and her family of corruption, is readying an impeachment complaint against her. Other groups are planning a big protest rally to coincide with Ms Ar-

WORST/ A8



NO SURRENDER
Former Sen. Loren Legarda presents what she says is proof of falsified results to back her claim that she was cheated in the 2004 vice presidential election. *(Story on Page A2.)*
ERIK ARAZAS

Ex-finance chief apologizes to SC for VAT remark

By Armand N. Nocum

FACING indirect contempt charges that could put him behind bars, resigned Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima yesterday apologized to the Supreme Court for his statements that were taken to mean by the media that President Macapagal-Arroyo had pressured the high tribunal into issuing a freeze order on the 10-percent expanded value-added tax (VAT) law.

But Purisima stood by his earlier claim that the President had at one time asked her finance team if it would be possible to stop the implementation of the VAT Law, which took effect July 1.

"If my actions have been misconstrued by the print and broadcast media, I apologize with sin-

EX-FINANCE/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have rains with gusty winds, and moderate to rough seas. The rest of Western Luzon and Western Visayas will be mostly cloudy with occasional rains. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/07/19/05 SOURCE PAGASA

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

3 'progressive' bishops heed Pope's call to steer clear of politics

By Christian V. Esguerra

WITH Pope Benedict XVI's subtle rebuke still fresh, three "progressive" Catholic bishops have promised to heed the Supreme Pontiff and keep out of the raging political crisis hounding the Arroyo administration.

For starters, Bishops Deogracias Iñiguez, Antonio Tobias and Julio Xavier Labayen have agreed to distance themselves from the Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya (KME), a group of mostly economists demanding President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation.

The decision came after the Vatican, through Apostolic Nuncio Antonio Franco, repeatedly reminded the local clergy to stay out of politics and focus on their episcopal ministry.

"What Rome wants is for the clergy not to get involved in direct political action," Tobias told the INQUIRER Sunday night. "When a bishop, a priest, or religious stands openly on political issues, we are reminded that it's not our role. It's specific to the lay."

Franco had phoned Tobias on July 4, reminding him that as bishop, he should simply provide guidance to his flock and not lead a political action. The prelate from Novaliches was then in the middle of a KME assembly at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Franco again relayed the message in a speech before 85 bishops during their regular plenary assembly in Manila more than a week ago.

"I can no longer openly demand a resignation," Tobias said, pointing out that the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines had already issued its official position on the matter.

The CBCP did not join the clamor for the President's ouster but cautioned her against ignoring such a call.

Iñiguez, the soft-spoken Caloocan bishop mistakenly regarded as a fierce Arroyo critic, on Sunday said that he and the two prelates would now stay "behind the scenes" even if they were not cutting their ties with the KME.

Press conferences by the group were well-attended ostensibly because of the bishops' participation. It was Labayen, prelate emeritus of Infanta, who read the KME's statements, including the last one that called on the President to step down.

Loren presents 'proofs' of fraud

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER Sen. Loren Legarda yesterday presented more documents showing alleged evidence of massive fraud not just against Vice President Noli de Castro but also against President Macapagal-Arroyo in connection with the 2004 elections.

Legarda showed copies of "patently falsified election returns" from three separate locations covering the presidential and vice presidential contest.

Legarda, who was the vice presidential candidate of opposition Koalisyon Ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino in the last election, said an election return from a polling precinct in Leyte showed that the President got 267 votes while De Castro received 268 votes.

On the other hand, Poe and Legarda received an identical number of two votes each, but the total number of votes listed in the ER was "271."

"Whoever falsified the electoral return did not know how to count," Legarda said.

She presented "clearly falsified election returns" from Angeles City, Pampanga, and another from Mandaue City in Cebu which showed "that the handwriting on the ERs were done by one person as they were similar in form and execution and symmetrical in formation."

Another election return from Bohol, she said, contained a total of the votes cast for each candidate, but did not include the tally of votes from which the totals were derived. The columns which were supposed to contain the particular votes were blank.

In earlier presentations, Legarda had shown stark discrepancies between the votes tallied in the ERs and in the certificates of canvass which were used by the Congress in tallying the total number of votes received by the presidential and vice presidential candidates.

At the same time, Legarda denounced anew attempts by De Castro's camp to delay the proceedings of the Presidential Electoral Tribunal in deciding her electoral protest against the vice president.

"That means that they themselves are not convinced that Noli won in the election," she said. "So why are they delaying the process? They have even filed another motion to dismiss. They are clearly afraid that the truth would come out and people would know that De Castro is a fake vice president."

'Truth Commission, then impeachment'

CBCP spells out formula to solve political crisis

By Christian V. Esguerra

FIRST, Truth Commission, then impeachment.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday spelled out in more concrete terms how the country should deal with the present political crisis.

Msgr. Hernando Coronel, CBCP secretary general, said the bishops were open to the establishment of a Truth Commission to determine if President Macapagal-Arroyo had indeed cheated in the 2004 elections, as suggested by her wiretapped conversations with a high election official.

And once findings are available, the President should be subjected to an impeachment process to settle the legitimacy of her administration, he said.

"The Truth Commission will lay the groundwork for an impeachment process," he told reporters.

"We urge our people to discuss and reflect on these options. These options are not mutually exclusive (from one another) and they can complement each other, (while) at the same time giving the President the chance to confront herself and her conscience."

Coronel said the CBCP had consulted moral theologians before exploring the twin options of establishing the commission and jumpstarting an impeachment process.

The CBCP had actually hinted at these options in its official statement released more than a week ago.

It called for an "independent process to examine the authenticity of the so-called Garcillano tapes, verify any possible betrayal of public trust, and mete out due punishment on all those found guilty."

"Beyond apology is accountability. Indeed, with forgiveness is justice," it said, referring to Ms Arroyo's public apology for phoning an election official believed to be former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Coronel, however, expressed reservations against the Truth Commission as the lone means to settle the crisis. As in common practice, its function is merely advisory or recommendatory, he said.

He also said that impeachment might not suffice because of the very strong possibility that politicians involved in the process would decide along party lines.

Asked if bishops were willing to sit in a Truth Commission, Coronel said the CBCP would "think about it." He said there had been cases in the past when they were invited to similar fact-finding bodies. In some instances, he said bishops sent priests as representatives.

The Bishops-Businessmen's Conference (BBC) had earlier proposed a Truth Commission to be composed of "eminent persons held in high public esteem." BBC co-chair Ricardo Pascua suggested that it be headed by Christian Monsod, former Commission on Elections chair.

Coronel said the CBCP had no specific persons in mind on the composition of the proposed commission.

What's clear was that the bishops, though criticized for their supposedly ambiguous official statement, were not abandoning their flock amid the crisis, he said.

"There should be non-intrusion into politics by the hierarchy," he said. "But it does not mean that the bishops will abdicate their role and do nothing with regard to the political situation. That would be a sin of omission. We will not wash our hands of the responsibility given us."

NEDA issues guidelines for unified national ID

By Michelle V. Remo

IGNORING a high court ruling that the executive department's move is unconstitutional and objections that the scheme unduly intrudes into citizens' privacy, the Arroyo administration is all set to implement the first phase of the national identification system.

The National Economic and Development Authority yesterday announced that it had issued the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of Executive Order No. 420, which calls for the establishment of a unified ID card for Filipinos.

The system envisages the issuance of a uniform, general-use ID to individuals which can be used to transact business with various government agencies and government-owned and -controlled corporations.

Individuals who register under the plan will be assigned a common reference number (CRN) which will go into a computerized data base under the administration of the government.

This means that a person will have a single ID that will serve, say, both as a drivers' license which the Land Transportation Office separately issues and as proof of his membership to the Social Security System.

The Arroyo administration defends the ID scheme as a key measure to promote national security, but critics, especially those from militant groups, said it would be wielded as a tool to suppress political dissent and identify perceived foes of the government.

"This measure will be used to monitor citizens and groups opposing the Macapagal-Arroyo administration's anti-people policies," Joel Maglunsod, secretary general of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, said. "Wanton violation of civil, political and human rights will take place if the ID system will be approved."

Some lawmakers are also questioning the prudence of the executive arm implementing a national ID system, since the Supreme Court had ruled that a similar move during the Ramos administration was unconstitutional, saying that the measure should have emanated from Congress.

According to National Statistics Office (NSO) Administrator Carmelita Ericta, the unified multipurpose IDs will contain basic, biometrics, and other personal data.

Basic data include the name, date and place of birth, name of parents and sex of the ID holder. Biometrics data cover the photo, signature, and the prints of the holder's index fingers and thumbs. Other data will comprise of home address, marital status, height, weight, prominent distinguishing features and the tax identification number, or TIN.

The NEDA's implementing rules say the registration and data-collection process will require individuals to go to a registration agency to fill up a registration form which will contain their biometrics data. They will be asked to consent to have the government's existing information on them used for purposes of the national identification system.

The national ID system will designate government agencies to either register or issue the cards.

Those that will be tasked with registration will be the ones to collect the personal and biometrics data of individuals. Card-issuing agencies will be the ones to produce and issue cards to their employees and members.

For its part, the NSO will be tasked to perform the function of a central verification and enrollment agency which will verify the data and consolidate and maintain the data under a common reference number database. The NSO, which is attached to the NEDA, is the country's major statistical agency responsible for collecting, compiling, classifying, producing, publishing and disseminating general-purpose statistics

The SSS will serve as the Biometrics Data Matching Center (BDMC) responsible for verifying the biometrics data submitted to government agencies.

Director Daniel Pabellon, head of NEDA's information technology coordination staff, said the national ID system would be implemented in three phases, the first of which would start upon the effectivity of the implementing rules and regulations which will take effect 15 days after publication in a newspaper.

"During the first 60 days, participating agencies will plan for the adoption of the CRN into their systems, such as its inclusion in their existing forms and systems. Card-issuing agencies will start to redesign their existing agency IDs and the CRN registry will begin to be filled," said Pabellon.

He said the second phase would take place a year after the effectivity of the IRR, when agencies start to issue the transition cards, to be followed by the last phase, which is the full implementation of the multipurpose ID.

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Consa won't fly in Senate, says Drilon

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE MOVE to fast-track a plan to amend the Constitution by convening the Senate and the House into a constituent assembly and resolve the crisis in the presidency will not prosper in the upper chamber, said Senate President Franklin Drilon.

"Efforts to resolve the present political crisis through an amendment to the constitution by having a parliamentary system and effectively cutting short the term of the President will not fly in the Senate simply because there are not enough votes," Drilon said in a press conference.

Drilon said that under Article 17, Section 1 of the Constitution, a three-fourths vote of all members of the Senate, or 18 senators, is needed to propose amendments to the Constitution through a constituent assembly.

"There are only 23 senators in the Senate and therefore a negative vote of six will kill any proposal to amend the Constitution through a constituent assembly," Drilon said.

"On the basis of public statements of my colleagues and of my own consultations with them, I cannot see 18 senators voting (for it)," he added.

Drilon said proponents of Charter change to solve President Macapagal-Arroyo's crisis are just wasting their time.

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Ramos, De Venecia . . .

From page A1

dent Franklin Drilon.

Drilon told a news briefing here there was reason to believe that Ramos, along with Speaker Jose de Venecia, was in control of Malacañang now.

Recent appointments of Cabinet secretaries closely identified with Ramos and De Venecia support this view, said Drilon.

The new secretaries were named to President Macapagal-Arroyo's official family following the resignation of 10 top Malacañang officials just over a week ago to press demands for her resignation over election fraud charges.

The Senate President said Budget Secretary Romulo Neri, who was appointed last week by the President to replace Emilia Boncodin, was a known protégé of De Venecia.

Neri was director general of the Congressional Planning and Budget Office before he became socioeconomic planning secretary.

Another Cabinet appointee, Trade Secretary Peter Favila, who replaced Juan Santos, was a consultant of the Speaker. Favila is a former chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange and headed the state-run Philippine National Bank during the Ramos administration.

Drilon described customs bureau officer in charge Alexander Arevalo as a former aide of Ramos. Arevalo took over the post vacated by Alberto Lina.

Political compromises

Drilon said "political compromises" made by Ms Arroyo with her advisers and allies were among the major factors why he decided to break ties with the President.

Ramos, chair emeritus of the ruling party Lakas, earlier dismissed suggestions that he was a kingmaker and that he could become the country's prime minister if there was a shift to a parliamentary form of government.

This came after Ramos declared his support to Ms Arroyo during the most critical 24 hours of her four-year-old administration on July 8, ostensibly saving her in the midst of the defection by her key secretaries and a call by former President Corazon Aquino that she step aside.

Ramos has brushed aside observations that he has become the de facto leader of the country and is seeking a comeback through his proposal for change in the form of government.

But Drilon said Ms Arroyo was increasingly becoming beholden to those who continue to support her administration.

"All decisions are made (by the President) on the standard whether or not they will bring the survival (of her) administration," he said.

"She will find difficulty in her governance because a lot of compromises are being made in order to survive and the economy will suffer because of these compromises," said Drilon.

Asked to comment on criticisms that he broke away from the President because he himself was interested in getting a post in government, Drilon, who is on his final term as senator, replied: "I don't have any interest to be the Vice President. It is a spare tire."

He said he was also not interested in any Cabinet positions because he had already held "high positions" as a member of the Cabinet in various administrations.

Confident

Drilon said he was confident of keeping his post as Senate President because he has the support of majority of his colleagues.

But he said he was always ready to hand over his position because it was "a gift from 13 senators"—referring to the number of senators required to maintain his post.

He said he would honor the agreement he made with Sen. Manuel Villar on term-sharing as Senate President. Under the agreement, Drilon will serve from July 2004 to July 2006, and Villar will take over from July 2006 to July 2007.

As Senate President, Drilon said he would sit beside the President and listen to her make her State of the Nation Address formally opening this year's session of Congress on July 15.

However, Drilon said that unless the crisis of leadership was resolved by December, the economy would become unmanageable. He said the continuing political turmoil would compound the country's financial problems. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

2 more GMA execs quit

From page A1

government," he told reporters at the Kapihan sa Manila forum.

Rigoberto Tiglao, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, said Friday it was "classic psy-ops technique to say that you have people you cannot trust in your Cabinet."

Tiglao was reacting to the statement of former adviser to the peace process Teresita Deles, one of the Hyatt 10, that more Cabinet members would resign.

Deeply concerned

Garchitorena, a director of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, is a former executive of the Ayala Group, a core member of the Makati Business Club which has asked the President to resign.

Guidote, who was only appointed to the post in February to help Bunye expound on economic issues, was at the recent forum attended by the Hyatt 10.

Both gave similar reasons for abandoning Ms Arroyo.

In an interview with reporters, Garchitorena said she resigned because she was deeply concerned about the contents of the "Hello Garci" tapes in which the President allegedly plotted with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to rig last year's election results.

"I wanted to speak freely and I felt I could not do that while I am still a consultant in the OP (Office of the President) and also holding an appointed position at the PCSO," she said.

Garchitorena is supporting the formation of a truth commission to study the wiretapped conversations between the President and Garcillano and the impeachment process against the President.

But she said she would not join any street protests.

Reforms slow in coming

Garchitorena filed her irrevocable resignation on July 7, the same day that the President ordered all Cabinet members to hand in their courtesy resignation to give her a free hand in revamping her Cabinet.

She said she waited for the President to implement the reforms she promised at the height of the "Hello Garci" scandal but she did not deliver. "The reforms were slow in coming and the only honorable thing to do is to resign as soon as I can," she said.

In a text message, Guidote said: "I'm genuinely concerned about the economy and its level of intolerance for political noise given both very pressing domestic and external challenges we are facing.

"The economy was no longer getting the full attention it deserves from policy makers. The whole reform program appears to be in jeopardy as the noise seems to be escalating from all sides of the political fence all at the expense of the economy," she said.

She submitted her resignation on July 8, which was supposed to be effective July 15.

In a TV interview, Guidote said she "has a high regard" for the former members of the economic team. "They were very good economic managers, they were very determined to carry out the reform program."

Use of resources

She said resources of the Office of the President were being allocated more toward defending the position of Ms Arroyo rather than running the economy.

Guidote said several options were available to address the political crisis. "One is for the President to either stay or resign or for her to be impeached. Like I said, it's going to be a collective decision."

Ms Arroyo has refused to resign and has welcomed opposition plans to impeach her, saying this will give her a chance to clear herself.

Ms Arroyo has publicly apologized for what she called a "lapse in judgment" in calling an election official but has denied any wrongdoing.

The scandal has triggered massive street protests and a censure from the influential Roman Catholic Church, which stopped short of calling for her resignation.

Influential former President Corazon Aquino has also called on Ms Arroyo to resign, as have members of the business community who once backed her economic reform agenda.

Ms Arroyo's supporters, however, staged a show of force with a large rally in the capital on Saturday.

Undistracted

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye thanked Guidote for her service as presidential consultant on investor relations.

"We wish her well," Bunye said, denying that her resignation was politically motivated.

He said the President was not letting the defections from her Cabinet bother her. "The President is undistracted in her work and has the full backing of the Cabinet in the implementation of her programs."

He downplayed the latest resignations as most of those he had talked with told him they would stick it out with the President.

"At this point, all Cabinet members are deemed to have submitted their resignations and they may be asked to leave, stay put or be redeployed where they are most effective. What is important is that the Cabinet is being reorganized and revitalized and we are working toward restoring political and economic stability," Bunye said.

The President yesterday swore into office her new frontline Cabinet officers—Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Budget Secretary Romulo Neri—in Malacañang to quickly fill up the vacant positions in her core economic team.

Bunye cautioned the public against speculating on the resignation of Afable as communication director.

"We should not speculate on the reasons for his resignation as he himself has not commented on it. Secretary Afable needs to focus on his job as peace negotiator at this point when we are at the threshold of a final agreement with the MILF," he said. *(See story on front page.)*

Bunye refused to comment on whether he had submitted an irrevocable resignation.

The remaining members of the Cabinet are in high spirits amid the roiling political crisis, Claudio said.

"There is a new surge of confidence, bonding and camaraderie among the Cabinet members who have remained, including the new appointees of the President who have come to join the Cabinet," he said. *With a report from AFP*

Turf war ruined Palace PR strategy—Afable

From page A1

Reñato Velasco of the Philippine Information Agency.

Afable resigned as communications director on July 6. He has not publicly explained his reasons, but a Cabinet member said he quit because he was so upset by an "unsolicited" presentation by former presidential adviser Marita Jimenez of a plan to refurbish Ms Arroyo's tattered image.

Afable has said he is staying on as chief peace negotiator with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Balanced counsel

"Having four secretaries having a say in communications may be a way for the Chief Executive to obtain balanced and diverse counsel," Afable said in his e-mail.

"We cooperate, we disagree and, sometimes, we ignore each other. We all report to the President and it is unrealistic to expect homogeneous recommendations."

Although he anticipated having problems running the show with three other co-equals, Afable said: "I agreed to the setup because it was very clear from the start that I had no command and control, just coordinative functions. I am not responsible for other Cabinet members, I deal with them professionally and on equal footing."

Good times, bad times

A Malacañang source said this setup had been largely unfair for Afable because he got the blame during bad times and merely shared the credit during good times.

One of the sore points among the four heads in the OCD was how Malacañang should respond to criticisms, particularly nasty attacks, against Ms Arroyo.

"Afable wanted to answer issues but without denigrating the personalities behind them. But he didn't want to engage in black propaganda, as in leaking falsified or fabricated 'intelligence reports,' or use 'blind items' to hit back at the President's detractors," the source said.

"There are actually a few people close to the administration who believe he should do that. But once you go off the deep end in legitimate PR work, you bring the Office of the President down with you and lose the moral ascendancy to communicate even her most basic programs before the people," the source added.

The OCD was formed by the President through Executive Order No. 348 in August last year as a means to systematize her PR strategy and avoid repeating blunders committed in her first four years in office.

It was a new position that placed Afable in charge of all PR units of Malacañang, from the in-house media crew to government-owned newspaper and radio and television stations to the President's speeches.

From the start, some observers questioned the practicality of centralizing the PR operation, considering it involved various media outlets.

Afable said: "Many perceive the OCD to be a failure and I won't be defensive about it. We are not into politics and our only client is the President. What she says, goes."

Intrigues mount

With the creation of a de facto media czar, the Malacañang source also said other units felt "threatened by the OCD's creation."

"They prefer to vent their concerns outside the organization rather than to help us deal with these issues in a dispassionate, transparent and professional manner," said the source.

The source said intrigues and cases of insubordination mounted especially after Afable announced plans to further streamline the PR division.

"He's a victim of politics because he's poor in handling turf wars considering his warm and approachable personality. He always thinks of overall strategy, instead of the small things, and he totally ignores politicking in the group," the source said.

GMA's wishes

Aside from the turf war, Afable had to contend with Ms Arroyo's predisposition to micro-manage the government.

The source said the President was deeply involved in mapping out the events she wanted to attend, when and where she would like to speak, and the kind of messages she deemed appropriate to the occasion. This has left the OCD with virtually nothing to do but ensure full coverage for these events.

Afable also had to make do with a skeletal staff and meager budget since Congress had not yet appropriated a budget for the newly created division.

"Afable only had three undersecretaries with no assistant secretaries or enough technical people reporting to him directly. There are several agencies under his supervision, but they have their own chains of command and work procedures in place, from decades ago. That is why streamlining is important," the source said.

With too many cooks already spoiling the broth, it was no wonder to people close to Afable why he quit the OCD when Jimenez, a close friend of Ms Arroyo, moved into the scene and told the Cabinet what she thought was the best way to make over the country's beleaguered CEO.

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the front-page banner story—"8th Cabinet exec resigns"—and an accompanying photo caption misstated that resigned Cabinet official Silvestre Afable Jr. had chosen to stay on as the government's chief negotiator with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Afable will continue to head the government panel in peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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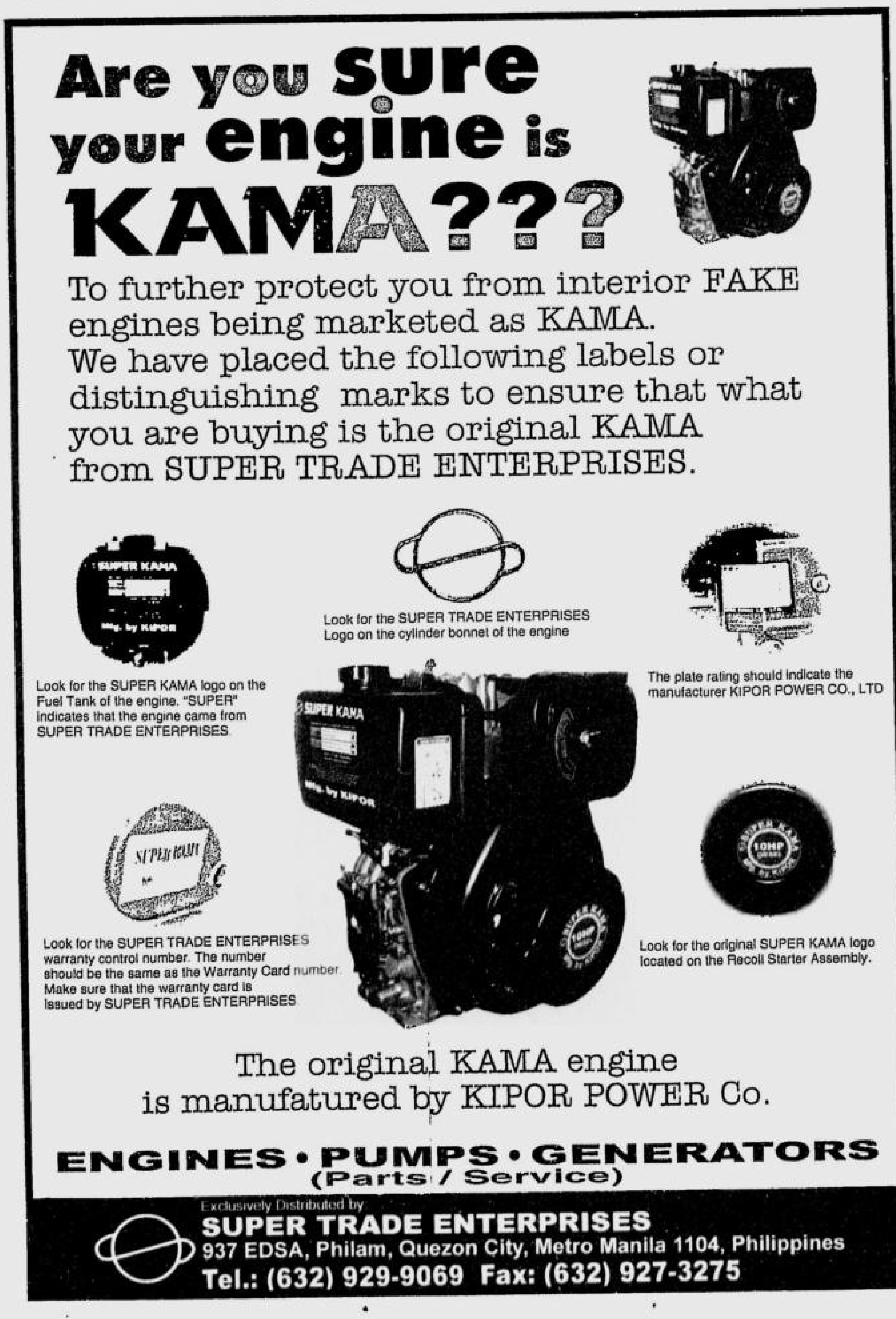
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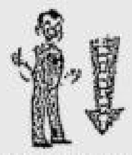
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The Equitable-PCI Bank ("EPCIB") will be holding its Annual Shareholders' Meeting on July 19, 2005 at 3:00 P.M. In connection therewith, the SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM ("SSS"), the GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ("GSIS"), the TRANS MIDDLE-EAST PHIL. EQUITIES, INC. ("TMEQ") and a group of supportive shareholders have agreed to pool their proxies and resources. With or without proxies, we therefore now constitute a majority of the shareholders of EPCIB (the "Majority Group").

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As all attempts for an amicable settlement have failed, the Majority Group is now constrained, as its last recourse and only redress, to take appropriate legal measures to protect, preserve and promote the best interest of EPCIB, its shareholders, officers, employees and most importantly its depositors. This matter is now in the hands of our lawyers.

We are calling upon all management and staff of EPCIB to respect the voice of the Majority Group.

Impeach issues: Cheating, lying, stealing

From page A1

ZAMORA: Lead impeachment prosecutor PDI PHOTO

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the complaint would revolve around impeachable offenses of "cheating, lying and stealing" that the President allegedly committed while in office.

He said the opposition legal team, composed of minority lawmakers and lawyers, were still trying to decide what cases and evidence to include in the complaint.

General offenses

"But the complaint will revolve around three general offenses—cheating in the elections, lying to the public (about the "Gloria-gate" tapes), and stealing not only the votes but also from government coffers. These will be the basic issues that will be raised against the President in this impeachment complaint," he added.

Escudero said the opposition might include in their case the earlier complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano, a loyalist of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, or file an altogether separate complaint only after the House approves its impeachment rules.

"It's important that the rules are approved first so that we will know what steps to take. The final decision will be made after the rules are approved," he said.

Escudero urged administration lawmakers to support the immediate transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate.

"It is in the interests of the opposition, and especially the administration, that this is brought to the Senate so that the President can answer the allegations against her," he said.

According to the Constitution and the current rules, the President can formally answer the charges only after they are brought to the Senate, he added.

Prosecutor

Escudero said that Zamora would be the lead impeachment prosecutor, while he would act as the impeachment "manager" to handle the "whole impeachment thrust."

The opposition is talking with members of the so-called "Hyatt 10," referring to the seven Cabinet secretaries and three Malacañang aides whose mass resignations aimed at forcing the President to stand down put the Arroyo administration on the brink over a tense, 24-hour period on July 8.

The 10 officials could provide material on alleged shenanigans in the administration that the opposition could use against Ms Arroyo, Escudero said.

"This (impeachment process) could be the right place and time for them to speak and divulge what they know," he added.

"I don't think any of them are afraid. They have put their lives, careers, and personal safety on the line. I don't think the allies of the administration can still scare them off with threats to deter them from saying what they know," Escudero said.

Rue the day

On paper, Ms Arroyo has the numbers in both houses of Congress to fend off a conviction. But that does not guarantee success in a political system driven by strong personalities and vested interests rather than party loyalty.

As the impeachment of deposed President Joseph Estrada showed in 2001, politicians had few qualms about jumping ship if they were in danger of being on the losing side.

"Gloria may yet rue the day she cockily dared her detractors to try the impeachment process," risk consultancy Pacific Strategies & Assessments said in a report.

"The real battle for Gloria's future could very well rest on backroom deals to swing the votes, using promises of wealth and political paybacks."

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. urged House members to start the impeachment proceedings against Ms Arroyo next week because this was the "win-win solution" to the political turmoil.

"I believe they will have the necessary numbers to do it," he said.

Magsaysay also appealed to the opposition not to hold rallies that disrupted economic activities, referring to the massive protest gathering in Ayala last week.

"They can hold rallies. But I would suggest that they do it where the people will not be affected because the commuters and the masses are only trying to make a living," he said.

Fairness urged

Also yesterday, Senate President Franklin Drilon said he and two Liberal Party senators—Rodolfo Biazon and Majority Floor Leader Francis Pangilinan—would remain objective if the impeachment complaint reached the Senate. The three senators have broken ties with the President.

"We will be voting in accordance with the evidence that will be presented before the impeachment court," Drilon said at a press briefing.

"I have confidence in the independence and the fairness of the senators ... There will be no voting along party lines insofar as senators sitting as judges are concerned."

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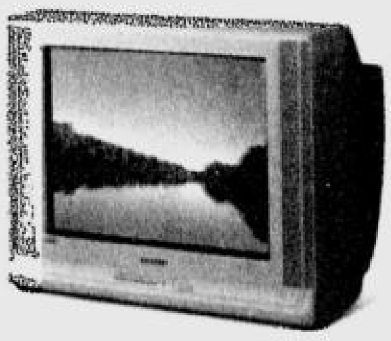

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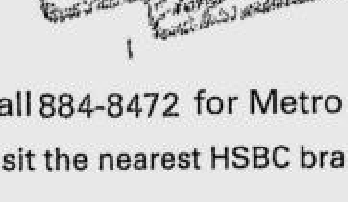

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Worst over for RP debt, says poll

From page A1

royo's annual State of the Nation Address next Monday.

Strong inflows from overseas Filipino workers helped push the Philippine peso to its highest level in three weeks.

The peso finished at 55.60 against US dollar on the Philippine Dealing System.

The peso gained about 0.4 percent from Friday's close of 55.845 per dollar, recovering some ground after a two-month-long sell-off. A weekend rally in support of the embattled President also helped lift the peso.

"We've had strong flows from remittances and there is a bit of calm on the political front, so this is good news for the peso," said a Manila-based trader.

BOP surplus

BSP data showing a Philippine balance of payments surplus of $343 million in June from $751 million in May, had little immediate impact on the peso.

But the latest data brought the BOP to a surplus of $1.981 billion in the first half, a sharp increase from just $70 million in the same period last year.

It was the strongest year-to-date BOP surplus since March 2002 when a windfall of $2.12 billion was posted.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco attributed the stronger first-half BOP figures to healthy remittances from overseas Filipino workers, portfolio investment inflows, a trade surplus, and proceeds from $2.25 billion worth of bonds the government sold this year.

The Philippines has a BOP surplus target this year of $852 million from an actual deficit of $280 million last year.

Last week, the BSP reported that overseas Filipino workers sent home $879 million through commercial banks in May, 26.8 percent higher than a year earlier.

Largely due to a faster growth in the number of professionals going abroad, total remittances for January to May reached $3.95 billion, 19 percent up from the same five-month period of 2004.

The government also reported last week that exports grew 1.1 percent to $3.296 billion in May. For the first five months of the year, total exports grew 4.0 percent from a year earlier to $16.045 billion.

Net portfolio inflow from January to July 9 rose sharply to $1.878 billion compared with just $146.3 million in the same period last year.

The strong BOP position reflected the rise in the gross international reserves to an all-time high of $17.66 billion at the end of June, shored up by national government deposits and a windfall from the BSP's overseas investments.

Credit standing

The GIR—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions, and foreign investments—is an indicator of the country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy.

According to a Reuters survey of Asian credit traders on Monday, the worst is probably over for Philippine debt after a period of political upheaval while Asian credit premiums are set to fall further.

Philippine debt investors have been nervous about the possibility of a wider political turmoil as Ms Arroyo seeks to survive a crisis over cheating and graft allegations.

But four participants of 10 traders surveyed chose Philippine bonds as the top choice among major Asian issuers.

Three named South Korean credits as their favorite, saying that the country would benefit from a weaker won and steady domestic interest rates.

Philippine debt maturing in 2015 had fallen to around 103.50/104.00 on Monday from as high as 106.75 last month. It is off recent lows of around 101.00.

Reports from Doris C. Dumlao, AP, AFP and Reuters

Ex-finance chief . . .

From page A1

cerity and humility," he said in a "compliance" statement his lawyer submitted to the Supreme Court, which earlier asked him to explain why he should not be cited in indirect contempt of court for allegedly hitting the tribunal.

Media reports cited Purisima as saying that the President had intended to delay the implementation of the VAT law, a move that partly drove him and nine other Cabinet members and agency heads to tender their irrevocable resignation on July 8.

The VAT law will raise the cost of electricity and fuel, airline and shipping fares and other previously exempt items. It would also raise corporate income tax to 35 percent from 32 percent for three years, after which it would fall to 30 percent.

The court freeze—18 hours after the expanded tax came into force—deepened concerns that the government's ability to rein in its budget deficit would be sidelined by a political crisis facing the Chief Executive.

The freeze order is costing the government P130 million a day in foregone revenues, according to the Department of Finance.

The new finance secretary, Margarito Teves, yesterday said the government was drawing up a contingency plan—centered on improving tax administration and efficiency—in case the court extended the freeze.

Before the freeze, the government had estimated this year's budget deficit would fall to P160 billion from the target of P180 billion, or 3.4 percent of GDP (gross domestic product). The fiscal shortfall in 2004 was P187 billion or 3.9 percent of GDP.

The Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) upon the request of four groups of petitioners—members of Congress and petroleum dealers—which questioned the constitutionality of a provision allowing the President to increase the VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent next year.

SC ruling next month

The tribunal may issue a ruling early next month on whether to keep the TRO on the VAT law, the court's spokesperson said yesterday.

Ishmael Khan said the court would start weighing conflicting arguments on the VAT law after July 24, the deadline set for the two sides to submit their final arguments.

"The justices are aware of the need to resolve the case as soon as possible," Khan told reporters.

"Personally, I think it will not go beyond Aug. 15. It may come as early as the first week of August," he said.

In his statement, Purisima said it was not true that he claimed or even insinuated that the tribunal was pressured or influenced by (the President) or Malacañang into issuing the TRO.

"What I stated was simply that President Arroyo had on several occasions discussed with the economic team the possibility of postponing the implementation of Republic Act No. 9337 (the VAT Law)," he said.

Purisima cited as proof new articles of the INQUIRER and three other newspapers showing that he did not directly accuse the President of influencing the tribunal into issuing the TRO.

He admitted, though, that he was "extremely disappointed" when the court issued the TRO, and more so when he noticed that Malacañang "was not doing enough to have the TRO lifted."

Hearing "rumors" that officials from the "executive branch" may have been "instrumental in procuring the TRO," the former finance secretary said he made inquiries from other Cabinet officials on the matter.

PURISIMA

But this move, he said, did not amount to a claim or insinuation "that Malacañang did so, or to hold, in any manner, this honorable court in contempt."

"I have always held this honorable court in high esteem and I cannot condone, much less do anything that would damage its integrity," Purisima said, adding that he would be "the last to do anything that would weaken the (court)."

Passing the blame to the media, he said "I have no control over what media actually reports. I hope that I will not be answerable for statements falsely attributed to me."

He said he empathized with the "righteous indignation that (the high court) is feeling as a result of the published articles and other media reports."

The court earlier gave Purisima until yesterday to explain why he should not be held in contempt for "conduct which puts the court and its members into dishonor, disrepute and discredit, and degrades the administration of justice."

6 years imprisonment

Under the Rules of Court, indirect contempt is punishable by up to six years' imprisonment or a fine of up to P30,000 or both, according to Khan.

If the court found Purisima's explanation acceptable, the matter ends there, Khan said. If not, the court will call him to a hearing before coming out with a decision.

Khan said the tribunal was doing all it could to speed up the resolution of the VAT petitions.

The court had given all parties 10 days (until July 24) to submit all their memorandums.

Newly appointed Budget Secretary Romulo Neri said the administration was ready to implement the VAT law once the Supreme Court lifted the TRO.

"In case the TRO will not be lifted, the only very transparent strategies we can disclose are raising revenues, strict or highly determined monitoring of tax evaders, and implementing the franchise telecommunication tax as alternative for the VAT," Neri said.

He was in Legazpi City on Friday during the second quarterly Bicol Regional Development Council meeting at the National Economic and Development Authority regional office.

"(O)nce the VAT's TRO is lifted and it is eventually implemented, our country really needs to perform with a very stabilized government. So, shifting from parliamentary form of government would be very advantageous to our political system and most of all, to our economy," he said. *With reports from Gil Francis G. Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Reuters*

GMA's Sona may mention Garci tape

From page A1

OSMEÑA: To attend Sona would reinforce her claim that she is our legitimate President.

LACSON: GMA's Sona will be another lie addressed to the nation.

confirmed they would be at the Sona, saying this was their constitutional duty.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., the first senator to call for Ms Arroyo's resignation following allegations that she tried to rig last year's elections and that her family took payoffs from "jueteng" lords, declined to say if he would attend.

'Another lie'

But Lacson and Osmeña made it clear they would snub the President's address.

"GMA's Sona will be another lie addressed to the nation," Lacson said, adding that he would deliver his version of the Sona on Friday. "It's going to be the true Sona."

"I won't attend the Sona. To attend it would tend to reinforce her claim that she is our legitimate President," Osmeña said. "The Sona can only be delivered by a legitimate President. Not a bogus President."

Like Drilon, Biazon stressed he was not shirking his responsibility, saying "It's my constitutional duty [to attend the Sona]."

Villar hedging

Pangilinan said he had no reason not to attend.

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. said he was not sure if he could come.

Speaking at the Kapihan sa Manila forum, Claudio said the Sona would be on a "positive note."

He said Ms Arroyo's address "will be an expression of the government's wish for the citizenry to exercise sobriety and fairness and to see the other side of government, the bigger side ... which continues to be resolute in working to deliver urgent and basic services to our people."

Claudio said the government would also call for the observance of the rule of law.

"What our government would ask for is for us to be sober. There is a constitutional and legal way of addressing our political problems ... It need not be taken to the streets because our economy is affected and when that happens, when politics threatens, the livelihood of ordinary people, especially the poor, are affected," he said.

Anticipating that opposition leaders would recruit people for a big rally during the Sona, local officials allied with the administration gave this advice to their constituents: Don't join in exchange for money.

Both administration and opposition camps have accused each other of paying protesters to attend their rallies.

"Many are tempted to join rallies for a fee because of poverty. But that is not a good way to earn," said Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali Gonzales II, who led his employees to the pro-Arroyo rally at Luneta on Saturday. *With a report from Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Opposition lawmakers planning Sona walkout?

By Michael Lim Ubac

IS THIS a case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing?

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos told reporters yesterday that opposition House members were "planning to make a powerful statement by way of staging a mass walkout or boycott" when President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address before Congress on July 25.

"We are duty-bound as members of the House of Representatives to be present during the opening of the 13th Congress. But for us to stay behind and wait [at] the Session Hall for Mrs. Arroyo to deliver her speech will be inconsistent for us calling for her resignation," she said.

Marcos explained that the calls for the President to resign owing to the "Gloriagate" and "Juetengate" scandals were sufficient grounds for the congressmen "to show their disgust to the President."

She claimed that besides the opposition, some members of the Nacionalista Party, Liberal Party and Lakas-CMD were considering wearing black ribbons and armbands.

Others incredulous

But opposition leaders had no idea of what Marcos was saying.

Minority Leader Francis Escudero said: "It's not true." He even joked that there was no need for such a dramatic move since Ms Arroyo could have relinquished the presidency by the time.

Said Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano: "I'm not going to leave my house when a guest comes up. GMA is the guest, not me. It's my House after all."

The majority is not taking chances.

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles appealed to the minority to "listen and digest the message of the President."

Nograles said the Marcos-espoused idea was only aimed at gaining media mileage.

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GMA apologizes, this time to Kris

From page A1

Kris quoted Ms Arroyo as saying, adding that during their brief phone conversation, the President apologized to her six times.

Interviewed over dzMM radio, Kris said the President called her up on her mobile phone on Sunday night. She said she was in the family home on Times Street, Quezon City, having dinner with her mother, former President Corazon C. Aquino.

She did not expect Ms Arroyo to call her up on the matter of Gonzalez's unsavory remarks.

Last week, Gonzalez advised Cory Aquino to mind her daughter Kris, instead of the affairs of the nation, following the former President's call for Ms Arroyo to step down.

The justice secretary had since apologized to Cory and Kris for his statements.

Kris said she did not answer her phone when it rang because the number that appeared on the LCD screen was unfamiliar. But when it continued to ring, Aquino said she asked her makeup artist Bambi Fuentes, who was with her at the family home, to take the call.

Kris had just come from her TV talk show "The Buzz" where she tearfully admonished Gonzalez for his offensive remarks against her.

It turned out that the caller was the secretary of the President who told Fuentes that the Chief Executive wished to speak to Kris.

When Kris took the call, she said the President immediately apologized to her.

"I got mad at him (Gonzalez) about this," the President told Kris. "Is there anything we can do to repair the damage?"

Kris said she told Ms Arroyo that she really appreciated the call but Gonzalez's statements had really hurt her.

Kris also told the President that she would not say anything political on the issues against her because she had campaigned for her in the 2004 presidential election.

"Sorry again, *di ko gusto ang mangyari ito* (I never wanted this to happen)," she quoted the President as saying.

Asked what her mother told her after getting a call from Ms Arroyo, Kris said the former President pointed out that Ms Arroyo herself was the one making the effort to fix things.

Cory told Kris that one good thing came out of the incident. "At least, we saw the people who are ready and willing to defend us," she said, quoting her mother.

Kris said she and her mother were grateful to the senators who defended them.

With regard to Gonzalez, Kris said, "I don't think we can ever be friends," adding that the justice secretary made those remarks to hurt her mother.

"*Ang kinapikon ko talaga, lahat ng in-*accuse *sa akin nangyari bago mag-* 2004 election. So *napakinabangan naman ako, nangampanya ako ng* all out, *bakit nung* time *na yun hindi* issue (What really hurt is that all those things they said about me happened before the 2004 elections. So they used me and I campaigned for them. Why were those things not an issue then)?" she said.

Kris said she and her siblings could not dictate their mother's beliefs and convictions.

"When it comes to politics, *talagang* shut up *kami lahat kasi yun ang panínindigan ng* mommy *ko* (we really shut up when it comes to my mother's beliefs)," Kris said.

Chavit to quit if 'X-tapes' were proven fake

ILOCOS Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson yesterday said he would resign his post if a portion of the "X-tapes" of former President Joseph Estrada allegedly discussing a plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo were found to have been spliced.

Singson, however, said the burden of proof lies with the opposition.

"Let them prove that (that part) is a fake. They are the ones claiming so," Singson told the INQUIRER.

Singson said, however, that he had contacted someone to look into the authenticity of the voice records.

Yesterday, the National Bureau of Investigation asked Singson to provide the bureau a copy of the "X-tapes" which he presented to the media last week.

"We would be conducting an initial analysis of the tape," NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said.

Wycoco said the NBI would also get Singson's statement on how and where he got the tapes.

Estrada is allegedly heard on the tape agreeing to a plan to topple "the midget," a possible reference to Ms Arroyo, and to "sacrifice the old man," a possible reference to former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Meanwhile, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito said he was no longer interested in filing charges against the people behind the "X-tapes," which he said were "obviously spliced." *Reports from Norman Bordadora, Margaux C. Ortiz and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Contaminated fish downs 134 in Maguindanao

Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY – At least 134 people, including children, were hospitalized over the weekend after eating what authorities believe to be contaminated anchovies in three remote villages of Upi, Maguindanao.

Complaining of severe stomach ache, headache and vomiting, the villagers were brought by truck and jeeps to Upi district hospital starting Saturday, Upi Mayor Ramon Piang said.

About 20 of the victims, most of them children, were in critical condition said Esther Petilo, a doctor at the Upi district hospital. So far, no deaths had been reported.

The victims purchased *bolinao* (anchovies) from four vendors over the weekend but on Sunday many of those who ate the fish began suffering from severe headaches, stomach pains and vomiting, Piang said.

The four vendors, who were among the stricken, were being investigated.

"They could have eaten fish contaminated with a poisonous substance. We are taking samples of the fish for laboratory examination to determine the real cause of stomach pain and vomiting," the mayor added.

Petilo, who led the medical team in attending to patients from the villages of Kinitaan, Renede and Nuro, said most of the patients complained of abdominal pain about three hours after eating *bolinao*.

"All of them ate bolinao and complained of severe stomach pain, vomiting and headache – these are indications of poisoning," Petilo said.

Piang said people are used to eating *bolinao*, a very common species easily available in many public markets. "*Baka may nahalong ibang isda na* toxic (Perhaps a toxic fish had been accidentally mixed with the catch), we don't know yet," he added.

Some of the patients said they bought the fish, locally known as*lupoy*, in Sitio Caguko in Barangay Matuber on Friday, cooked and ate it and then six hours later started to vomit.

Others bought and ate the fish on Saturday but had stomach pains the following day.

Pacita Mulintangan, Barangay Kagawad of Kinitaan, claimed she suffered abdominal pains after eating a small serving of the fish. Her husband had eaten much more and was rushed to the hospital.

Another village official of Barangay Renede, Pacita Colab and her husband were also confined in the hospital.

Since the hospital only had 20 beds, there were two patients to a bed. Piang directed local government workers to help hospital staff put up huge tents to accommodate the rest of the bedless patients.

About 80 remained in the hospital yesterday, including 20 who were seriously dehydrated. *With AP and AFP*

We can't cancel Garci's passport–DFA

By Volt Contreras and TJ Burgonio

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs declined to act on Sen. Aquilino Pimentel's demand that the agency cancel the passport of controversial Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque explained that a passport could only be canceled on three grounds: when the holder has been declared by the court as a "fugitive from justice," when he has been convicted of a crime, or when the passport was acquired fraudulently or tampered with.

Asuque was citing provisions of the Philippine Passport Act of 1996.

Pimentel yesterday urged the DFA to cancel Garcillano's passport to foil any attempt on his part to escape amid charges he helped rig last year's presidential elections.

The senator was reacting to reports that the former Elections Commissioner had flown out of Manila for Singapore aboard a Lear jet last Thursday, reports that were later dismissed by administration lawmaker Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay and aviation officials.

When asked if the DFA could cancel Garcillano's passport even though he's not facing any charges in court, Pimentel said: "I suppose the DFA can, as a precautionary measure, because Garcillano may under the circumstances be treated as a fugitive."

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said yesterday they were also trying to contact Garcillano to convince him to come out and tell "the truth" about the "Gloriagate" tapes. *With Philip C. Tubeza*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 19, 2005
16th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Ex 14:21-15:1
Gospel:	Matthew 12:46-50

While Jesus was still talking to the people, his mother and his brothers wanted to speak to him and they waited outside. So someone said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are just outside; they want to speak with you."

Jesus answered, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is for me brother, sister, or mother."

Commentary

This short piece of Scripture lays the foundation for church and Jesus' community. His family comes looking for him: his mother and brothers and he does not go out to them. He stays with the disciples and declares: "Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is for me brother, sister and mother." We have never really taken these words of Jesus to heart. Intimacy and closeness in Jesus' circle is not based on blood ties, marriage or family, but it is based on belief and practice of the Word and the will of God in the community that calls God, Our Father and treats the whole human community as brother and sister. For believers, water is thicker than blood (the water of baptism) and the only blood that binds us together is the Blood of Christ, drawing us especially close to those who suffer as he did. Are we brother, sister and mother to Jesus!

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (B.P. Blg. 22 - BOUNCING CHECKS LAW) - Prima facie presumption of insufficiency of funds - Knowledge involves a state of mind difficult to establish, thus the statute itself creates a prima facie presumption that the drawer had knowledge of the insufficiency of his funds in or credit with the bank at the time of the issuance and on the check's presentment for payment if he fails to pay the amount of the check within five banking days from notice of dishonor. As a rule, the prosecution has a duty to prove all the elements of the crime, including the acts that give rise to the prima facie presumption. Petitioner, on the other hand, has a right to rebut such presumption. Thus, if such knowledge of insufficiency of funds is proven to be actually absent or inexistent, the accused should not be held liable for the offense defined under the first paragraph of Sec. 1 of B.P. Blg. 22. In the present case, the prosecution has established the prima facie presumption of knowledge of petitioner of insufficient funds through the demand letter sent to petitioner, which was duly received by petitioner as shown by the registry return receipt. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Austria-Martinez, Second Division, Lee v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 145498, January 17, 2005) BY R.B. VERA

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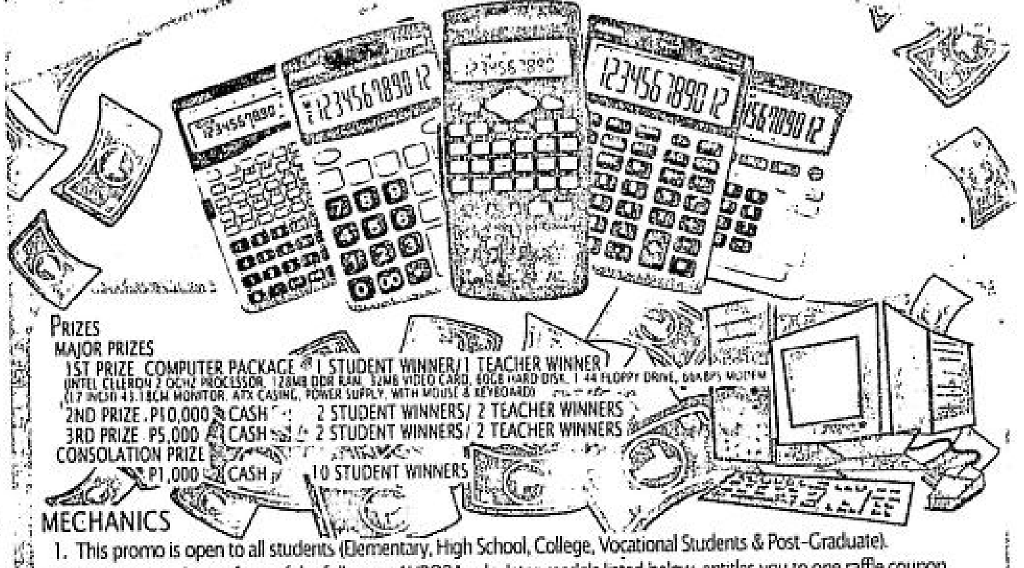

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Iraq reels from suicide bombing blitz

AL-MUSAYYIB, Iraq—More than 140 Iraqis were killed and 300 wounded in a suicide bombing blitz as justice officials lifted the curtain on the trial of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein.

The deadliest attack came Saturday evening in the small town of Al-Musayyib, 60 km south of the capital, where stricken townspeople swept away the wreckage of a fuel truck bomb that killed 98 people.

Three more suicide car bombers hit the Iraqi capital on Sunday in a devastating new campaign.

The overnight attack in the highway town of Musayyib was the most lethal since the Iraqi government took power in April and the second deadliest single bombing since the war began in 2003.

It prompted denunciations of the authorities in parliament and calls for local militia to take up arms.

Some 15 suicide bombers have struck within just over 48 hours in the capital and along the main road south in what al-Qaida's Iraq wing has declared is a campaign to seize Baghdad.

In Saturday's attack, a suicide bomber drove a stolen truck full of liquefied gas onto the central square, opened its valves, and blew himself up, setting off a firestorm that torched 20 cars and set shops and buildings ablaze. Many victims were charred beyond recognition.

The bombing took place as hundreds outside enjoyed the relative coolness of evening. It appeared to target a Shiite mosque, which also houses the local offices of supporters of radical leader Moqtada al-Sadr.

The attack was followed up within seconds by a mortar attack on the area.

"I was 100 meters away when I saw the fireball. It was enormous ... People were burning in their cars. We had to get them out with hooks," said Khodr Abbas, 24, who works at a local Sadr office.

"I saw women in the burning houses crying for help and we couldn't do a thing," he said.

One of the injured, Ammar al-Karaguili, 40, said he saw desperate parents throwing their children out of windows and from balconies to escape the inferno.

Police Lt. Hassan Ali said the square was normally closed off to tanker trucks, but he thought this one was let through a road block when the driver said he wanted to turn his vehicle around.

"The driver then stopped his truck, got out, opened the tanker's gas valves and blew himself up," Ali said.

IRAQI men comfort each other July 17 during the funeral of a relative who died in a horrific suicide fuel truck bombing in a square in the town of Al-Mussayib, south of Baghdad. AFP

With the country rocked by insecurity, Iraq's chief investigating judge Raed Juhi said that a date for the trial of Saddam and his top aides would soon be announced after charges were brought against them in connection with a 1982 massacre.

This follows the conclusion of the investigation into the 1982 killing of 143 residents of the village of Dujail, northeast of Baghdad, after Saddam had survived an assassination bid there, Juhi said. He did not detail the charges.

The former dictator, his stepbrother Barzan Ibrahim Al-Hassan, former Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, former top judge Awad Bad ar Al-Bender and others will be tried in the case, he added.

Other investigations, including those of alleged genocide against the country's Kurdish and Shiite communities, were continuing, he said, adding that investigators had already examined more than two million documents and interviewed 7,000 witnesses.

Saddam, who was overthrown two years ago, has been in US detention, near Baghdad airport, since December 2003, as have most of his lieutenants.

The Iraqi parliament called for a minute's silence nationwide on Wednesday to commemorate the Musayyib casualties and the 32 victims, most of them children, who died in a Wednesday car bombing in Baghdad.

Several legislators warned that the current wave of attacks could push the country into civil war.

But Shiite radical leader Moqtada Sadr said in an interview with British television to be broadcast on Monday that violent resistance to foreign troops in Iraq is "legitimate."

Iraqis should not be provoked by the coalition "occupation," the cleric told the BBC's "Newsnight" program in his first interview with a Western news organization.

But he added: "Resistance is legitimate at all levels be it religious, intellectual and so on.

"The first person who would acknowledge this is the so-called American President Bush who said: 'If my country is occupied, I will fight.'" *AFP, Reuters*

Iraq war boosted al-Qaida, put UK at risk, says report

LONDON—The war in Iraq gave a "boost" to al-Qaida and made Britain especially vulnerable to attacks like those of July 7 in London, a respected British research center said in a report published Monday.

"There is no doubt that the situation over Iraq has imposed particular difficulties for the UK, and for the wider coalition against terrorism," said the report by the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA), known as Chatham House, in London.

"It gave a boost to the al-Qaida networks propaganda, recruitment and fundraising, caused a major split in the coalition, provided an ideal targeting and training area for al-Qaida-linked terrorists, and deflected resources and assistance that could have been deployed to assist the (Hamid) Karzai government (in Afghanistan) and to bring (al-Qaida leader Osama) bin Laden to justice."

The report went on: "A key problem with regard to implementing (the strategy against terrorism) is that the UK government has been conducting counterterrorism policy shoulder to shoulder with the US, not in the sense of being an equal decision-maker, but rather as pillion passenger compelled to leave the steering to the ally in the driving seat."

Britain was "at particular risk because it is the closest ally of the United States, has deployed armed forces in the military campaigns to topple the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and in Iraq," and has taken a leading role in the fight against al-Qaida, it went on.

Headed "Riding Pillion for Tackling Terrorism is a High-risk Policy," the report was drawn up by Paul Wilkinson, chairman of the Terrorism Research Centre at Scotland's University of St. Andrews, and Frank Gregory of the University of Southampton in England.

It runs counter to the argument by Prime Minister Tony Blair who has insisted that the July 7 attacks on public transport, in which 55 people were killed and more than 700 injured, had nothing to do with the war in Iraq.

The researchers also noted that Britain had until 2001 neglected the Islamist threat and had for a long time given shelter to extremists preparing attacks, prompting anger among the foreign governments who were the victims.

The British security services were at the time preoccupied almost exclusively by the violence linked with the Northern Ireland conflict, especially the campaign of attacks by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), they said.

"By the mid-1990s the UK's intelligence agencies and the police were well aware that London was increasingly being used as a base by individuals involved in promoting, funding and planning terrorism in the Middle East and elsewhere," the report said.

"However, these individuals were not viewed as a threat to the UK's national security, and so they were left to continue their activities with relative impunity, a policy which caused much anger among the foreign governments concerned.

"As a result of giving lower priority to international terrorism, the British authorities did not fully appreciate the threat from al-Qaida," it said.

The report, however, noted successes in Britain's antiterrorist policy such as the swift overthrow of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and the fact that al-Qaida "suffered major disruption of its activities and lost many of its key personnel." *AFP*

US firm buys Raffles hotels for $1B

THE RAFFLES Hotel in Singapore in photo dated June 1992. AFP

SINGAPORE—Singapore's historic Raffles Hotel and Raffles Holdings' 39 other luxury hotels around the world will be sold to US investment fund Colony Capital for US$1 billion, the two companies said Monday.

The firms said the deal was worth 1.72 billion Singapore dollars (US$1.01 billion), made up of 1.45 billion dollars in cash with the balance being the take-over of Raffles' debt.

Singapore government-linked Raffles Holdings has a portfolio of 40 hotels in 33 destinations worldwide, including the Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor in Cambodia and the Swissotel Hotels and Resorts chain.

Singapore real estate giant CapitaLand is the majority owner of Raffles Holdings. The state-linked investment agency, Temasek Holdings, owns a 61-percent stake in CapitaLand.

Raffles Holdings said it had decided to off-load its hotel operations as it did not want to invest further to expand the business, while a favorable global climate meant the timing was right.

"While the hotel business has performed well, it is at a crossroads. To grow the hotel business to gain global scale will entail significant capital investment," Raffles Holdings chairman Cheng Wai Keung said in the statement.

"The strong performance of the hotel business combined with the current active M and A (merger and acquisition) market presented a timely opportunity for RHL to realize value in the business." *AFP*

INQUIRER Platinum Code

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Rats invade central HK

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's central business district, famous for gleaming skyscrapers and fashionable bars, is facing an invasion of rats.

Between January and June, the densely populated area's rodent infestation rate swelled to 17 percent from zero, based on the number of rats attracted to every 100 pieces of bait.

"Central was virtually rat-free a few months ago, then the situation deteriorated. We have to tackle the problem actively. What is important is sustained action," said Ho Yuk-yin, a consultant with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.

He attributed the influx to poor vigilance at restaurants in the area's old, run-down and poorly maintained buildings and maze of dank alleyways.

Government officers are distributing pamphlets to educate restaurant workers about hygiene, food storage, rubbish disposal and rat prevention. Workers were also putting out poisoned bait.

The district is now the second-worst rat infested area in Hong Kong, behind a shopping center in rural New Territories. A rodent infestation rate above 20 percent is considered high. *Reuters*

Veterinarians say world vulnerable to agroterror

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota—Veterinarians and animal-health workers from around the world are meeting here to learn how to spot livestock diseases that terrorists could introduce to touch off human plagues.

"Agroterror would in fact be very easy to do, and we are quite vulnerable," said Dr. Corrie Brown, a professor and head of the Pathology Department at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

Heightening the concern is a shortage of laboratory facilities equipped to handle dangerous diseases, as well as a shortage in rural areas of veterinarians, who provide the link between animal health and public health.

Animal diseases that could be turned into weapons by terrorists are highly contagious and easily obtained in less-developed countries, Brown said at a joint convention of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the World Veterinary Congress.

The Congress, attended by nearly 10,000 veterinarians and animal-health workers from 40 nations, has not met in the United States since 1934.

Saturday, the world's most prominent veterinary leaders were among those arriving in Minneapolis from France and elsewhere for the four-day conference.

Veterinary workers are on the front lines of countering the potential for such terrorism because animals serve as sentinels for the presence of many diseases, said Bernard Vallat, director general of the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Vallat said he fears the intentional spread of diseases such as avian influenza, anthrax or rabies by terrorists intent on harming both animals and the public. Other pathogens that strictly affect livestock can devastate economies, he told AFP in Minneapolis.

"The foot-and-mouth disease virus could be a terrible agent for bioterrorism because it could destroy totally the production of milk in a country," Vallat said.

Foot and mouth disease, which attacks hogs and sheep as well as cattle, could sweep across the United States with dire economic consequences if not caught within the first 24 hours, said Dr. Bonnie Beaver, president of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Veterinarians and other animal-health workers were attending training seminars this weekend, including on how to spot the blisters, sores and other signs of exotic diseases.

During one seminar, Brown showed an image of a scrawled list of deadly livestock diseases—some of which could kill humans—that was found in a cave in Afghanistan. The US government recently declassified the list, Brown said. *AFP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Wanted: Translators as immigrant births in US rise

UTICA, New York—The man from Bosnia was just not understanding. His wife was in labor at a central New York hospital and the doctor was trying to explain in English the need for a Caesarean section.

Horrified, the man translated incorrectly and told his wife the baby was dead, and it would have to be cut out of her. The woman went into shock. Though the baby was healthy, she couldn't take care of it for a week.

Almost one in four American births is now to a foreign-born mother, according to a recent report by the Center for Immigration Studies. The result, medical experts and advocates say, is a growing pressure on American health care centers to not only deliver babies, but deliver them in more languages than one.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 says hospitals that get federal money must provide interpreter services. It just doesn't say how. Most hospitals reach out with phone-based interpretation services. But critics say the phone has limitations, especially during childbirth.

"What, are they going to pass the receiver back and forth while the doctor is catching the baby?" asked Dr. Francesca Gany, director of the Center for Immigrant Health at the New York University School of Medicine. "Health care facilities are definitely feeling the heat."

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations is studying the link between medical error and interpretation issues, Gany said. And the National Health Law Program is looking at how small health care providers can offer language services. A report by the Washington-based Institute of Medicine said 56 percent of such providers surveyed had received no language training.

Though studies are under way, there are no national numbers for access to, or use of, interpreter services in health care. But there are some telling samples.

One hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, said requests for interpreters more than doubled, to more than 4,000 requests a year, between 2000 and 2003. In Columbus, Ohio, Children's Hospital in 2002 had almost 8,000 requests for interpreters.

A survey of New Jersey's hospitals shows that in a largely urban state where 11 percent of residents have limited English, just 3 percent of hospitals have a full-time interpreter. Eighty percent of hospitals offer no staff training on working with interpreters, and 31 percent have no multilingual signs.

Cost is a barrier and most hospitals told the New Jersey survey that reimbursement for translation services is needed. *AP*

BRITAIN'S former Prime Minister Edward Heath in an April 29, 2002 photo. AP

Former British leader Edward Heath dies at 89

LONDON—Tributes poured in Monday for former British leader Sir Edward Heath who has died aged 89, with fellow political veteran Margaret Thatcher describing him as a "political giant" and Prime Minister Tony Blair calling him a "man of great integrity."

Heath, most famously remembered for leading Britain into Europe, passed away on Sunday after growing weak in recent days, a spokesperson said.

Despite only serving one term in office from 1970 until 1974, He famously took Britain into what was then the European Economic Community, the forerunner to the European Union.

It was a rare moment of triumph during Heath's time in Downing Street, which was sandwiched between terms for the far more popular Labour Party Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

In a formidable political career, Heath led the Conservative Party from 1965 to 1975 when he was succeeded by the then-largely untested Thatcher.

He felt snubbed and never forgave Thatcher, lapsing into what was popularly dubbed "the longest sulk in modern politics."

Friends say his feelings toward her mellowed after she, too, left Downing Street and she offered warm words of tribute.

"Ted Heath was a political giant," Thatcher said.

"He was also, in every sense, the first modern Conservative leader—by his humble background, his grammar school education and by the fact of his democratic election," she said.

She praised his work during the difficult post-World War II era.

"For that, and much else besides, we are all in his debt," she said.

Heath, the lower middle class son of a carpenter and a domestic servant who won a place at Oxford University from his local state school, was viewed by his then-largely patrician party as a useful weapon with which to counteract Wilson's man-of-the-people image.

Yet despite his background, Heath lacked any sort of common touch. He antagonized many political rivals and established few real allies, either in the party or in the wider country.

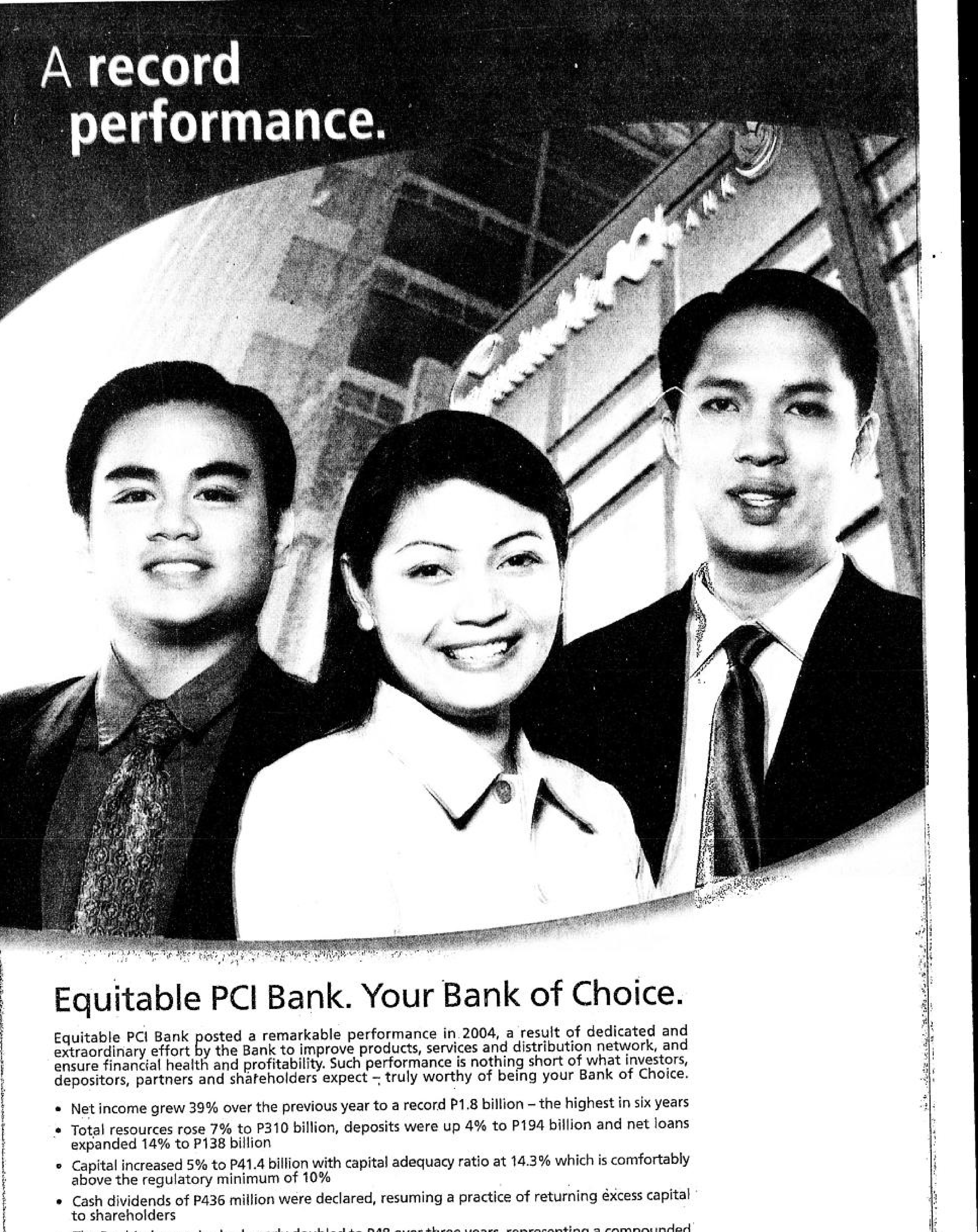
Much of his premiership was marked by militant trade union activism, notably by miners, and a wave of strikes and energy shortages in the winter of 1973-74 eventually led Heath to declare a three-day working week.

"He wouldn't feel he was doing his job properly unless he was booed a bit," one colleague of the time, James Pryor, famously said.

Heath called an election for February 1974 on the slogan "Who governs Britain?" to which the voters' answer, pundits noted at the time, was: "Not you."

The election saw no party secure a majority, and in another poll in October Wilson scraped home with a five-seat margin. The next year the Conservatives deposed Heath as leader in favor of Thatcher.

An increasingly corpulent and pink-faced Heath lurked on the back benches of the House of Commons for another 26 years, only retiring at the 2001 election after more than half a century in parliament. *AFP*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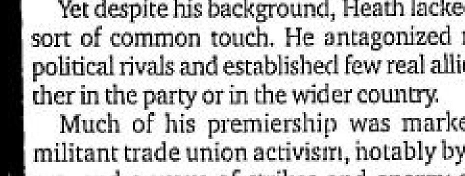

InqBox

Question of the Week

Do you think the planned image makeover of President Gloria Arroyo into a friendlier, gentler president will work?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **InqBox** *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt!!*

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Period of waiting

EDITORIAL

THE UNITED Opposition is urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign. Sixty-two percent of Metro Manila residents believe she should quit. Former President Corazon Aquino also wants her to resign. The "Hyatt 10" is urging her to quit. Many business, professional, religious and academic groups say she should step down. The President has said, however, that she is not resigning.

The opposition is now considering impeaching her. But even if it pushes through, the impeachment court will take a long time to reach a resolution, unless something like Edsa II happens. So it seems that Ms Arroyo will be with us for some time yet. And while the question of whether she should stay in office remains unresolved, political and economic instability is likely to continue.

In an effort to make Ms Arroyo more acceptable to the people, her advisers are planning a makeover to project her as a friendlier, gentler President. This is a cosmetic move, and we doubt if it will earn her points. It would be better if she did something that would greatly benefit the country in the interim. The first priority should be the economy, which has taken a heavy beating the past five weeks. The President has taken the first step by appointing replacements for the members of her economic team who resigned recently. We hope that the new appointees would attend immediately to the serious economic problems of the country.

An early resolution of the constitutional challenge to the expanded value-added tax law by the Supreme Court could help promote stability on the economic front. Then new Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Bunag will have to ensure the strict enforcement of the expanded VAT and continue the aggressive collection of taxes begun by his predecessor, Guillermo Parayno. The government needs a lot of funds, and it needs them now.

Under the Constitution the President cannot fire the commissioners of the Commission on Elections. But she could enlist the help of civil society and the political parties in exerting pressure on the election commissioners to tender their resignation. The commissioners should realize that the Comelec is one of the most discredited government agencies today. A reform of the electoral process has to begin with the cleansing of the Comelec.

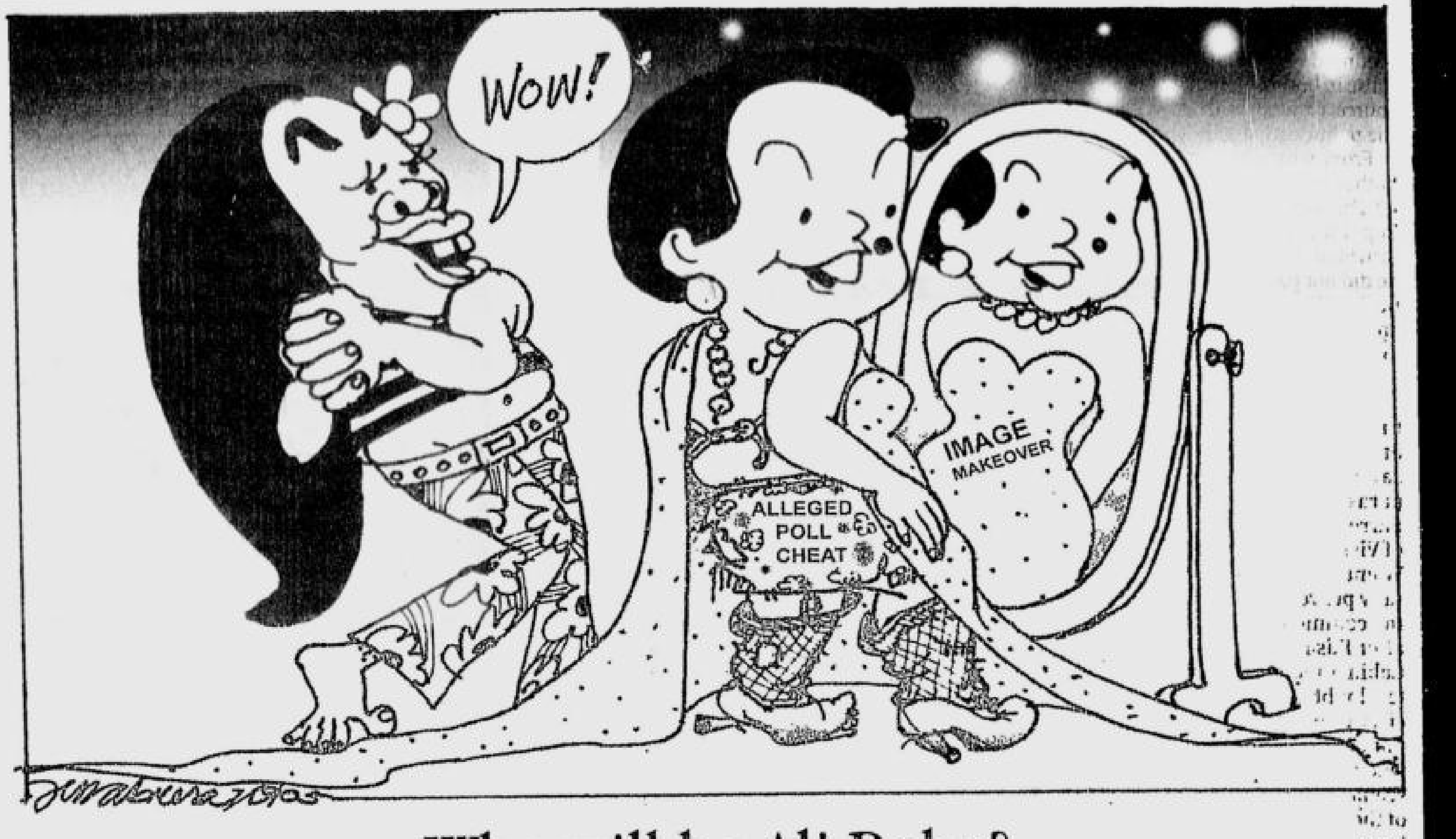
If a mass resignation of the Comelec commissioners can be obtained, the President should avoid packing it with disreputable characters and "dependable" political allies. She should consider appointing to the Comelec people of the caliber of its former chairs, Christian Monsod and Haydee Yorac. The nation will be grateful if she can clean up the Augean stable that is the Comelec. The cleanup could be the start of wide-ranging reforms in the electoral system.

It is not just the electoral system that needs changing. The political system also needs to be changed to promote national stability. Since Edsa I in 1986, the nation has gone through many periods of political instability. Now may be an auspicious time to change the system, from presidential to parliamentary. A parliamentary system makes it possible to quickly change an administration once its leader loses the confidence of his or her parliamentary peers and the people. Then there would be no need for future Edsas.

Reports the day after Ms Arroyo survived the most serious challenge to her presidency said that because of his support, former President Fidel V. Ramos would now have his way in his efforts to move the nation from the presidential to the parliamentary system. Under Ramos' timetable, Congress would convene as a constituent assembly to propose changes in the Constitution. Civil society and the opposition are expected to oppose the idea of convening a constituent assembly because Congress is another discredited institution.

It would be better to call a constitutional convention. It may be more expensive, but the election of delegates to the convention may see the emergence of young, new leaders who could bring new perspectives and new ideas to the task of crafting the fundamental law. The body politic also needs a shot of fresh blood to invigorate and renew itself.

In this expectedly long period of waiting, the President could serve the national interest if she would put the economic house in order, help bring about electoral reforms, beginning with a change in the Comelec, and start the ball rolling for a change from the presidential to the parliamentary system.



Who will be Ali Baba?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

REP. Ronaldo Zamora's eyes don't grow misty over people power. The San Juan congressman backed Ferdinand Marcos, then Joseph Estrada. People power booted both out. Both landed in Transparency International's "List of the World's Most Corrupt Leaders"—among the Top 10, no less.

Some regard that as failure to read character and history. But all agree Zamora can count. Thus, his tallies are candid. "I don't think you're going to get (the President) out with the rallies that we're holding," Zamora admits. But "the numbers are moving toward our direction" for impeachment.

Former Estrada cabinet member Horacio Morales vowed that [illegible] million would join their Makati rally. Forty thousand came. That's a piddling 4 percent. Out of every 100 potential protestors, 96 didn't even RSVP.

Equally telling is the provinces' refusal to sign up. In earlier protests, the boondocks erupted with rallies, in sync, with Manila.

So, what's the reason for this flop? One is failure to craft acceptable alternatives. All they offer are 40 thieves squabbling over who should be Ali Baba.

"Jinggoy says bring back Erap," notes "Philippine History Abridged (Ang Gulo sa Bayan Ko)," a funny, pointed Internet essay. "Rez Cortes wants Susan Roces to take over. But Abat says it should be him, while Billy Bibit says it should be a military junta.

"Bayan-National Democratic Front says it should be a coalition government, with them at the helm. Sanlakas says it should be a revolutionary government.

"Here's Noli de Castro whom ABS-CBN wants to be the new president. Not so fast, says Loren Legarda. She reminds everyone about her protest against Noli.

"Ping Lacson's body language points to his wanting to take over. Jojo Binay, says over his dead body! And Frank Drilon and Manny Villar think it should be them. So they're positioning to be the vice president."

"We do not demand (the President's) resignation," the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines said on July 10. Instead, the bishops asked the lady to "discern to what extent she might have contributed to erosion of effective governance and whether the erosion is ... irreversible."

A Social Weather Stations phone survey, two days later, found that 84 percent of Metro Manila residents don't insist on resignation. They would prefer that the President be impeached.

Impeachment is the "tribunal where statesmen [are tried], not on the matters of narrow jurisprudence, but upon the enlarged and solid principles of morality," the parliamentarian Edmund Burke once said. Does our experience square with this yardstick? Consider these three cases:

In the impeachment case lodged against Election Commisioner Luzviminda Tancangco, the charges were damning. She awarded a P6.5-billion contract on a budget of P1.2 billion for a voters' registration project that disenfranchised thousands. With other Erap commissioners, she absented herself from 42 percent of the sessions, etc. But House justice committee members thumbed the impeachment complaint down without written explanation, fracturing their own rules. Administration lawmakers absented themselves on the crucial vote. That derailed impeachment. And in 2004, voters' names, by the thousands, disappeared from the rolls.

Eduardo Cojuangco's "Brat Pack" in the House.tried to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide. The Davide Court had earlier struck down enclaves of privilege: Cojuangco's grip on coconut levy funds, Marcos' loot in Swiss banks, Mark Jimenez's extradition and Panfilo Lacson's link to the Kuratong Baleleng murders.

"In the gangland's culture, Davide is everything a public official shouldn't be," the INQUIRER's Randy David wrote. "He does not grovel ... and rules with impartiality. Now he's being taught a lesson by young heirs of those who always imagined themselves to be the real lords."

Citizen protests and dogged resistance by Representatives Teodoro Locsin Jr., Raul del Mar and other upright legislators stopped the "Brat Pack" in its tracks. Yes, Virginia. There are still decent congressmen.

In Erap's impeachment, People Power II checkmated obstruction of justice by the "Craven Eleven." John Osmeña, Francisco Tatad, Nikki Coseteng, Robert Jaworski, Teresita Aquino-Oreta and Gringo Honasan were later trashed at the polls. The dying Cardinal Wolsey's cry echoes in them: "Had I served my God with half the zeal/I served my king, he would not have, in old age/Left me naked to mine enemies."

That track record shows impeachment hews to this country's unwritten law: "Thou shalt not touch the loot of the rich."

Cojuangco's "Brat Pack" risked constitutional meltdown to punish those who hurt its master's wallet. The Tancangco and Erap cases perverted a redress process to ensure their stay in office.

We must wring greater accountability from presidents, as the opposition rightly insists. But that same answerability must be forthcoming also from the opposition who straddle astride checks and balances, including impeachment.

"The present system is extremely vulnerable to disruption and replacement by a military dictatorship or presidential autocracy," notes the Christian Science Monitor. Martial law and Marcos confirm that.

Today, virtually all industrial democracies have parliamentary regimes where officials are not shielded by rigid fixed terms. For us, such changes are still down the road. But we can debate on such reforms now.

Other countries have long outstripped us. And the shadow of a nuclear crisis is emerging in the Korean peninsula. Can we not, at least, move beyond Zamora's headcounts and sterile quarrels on who will be Ali Baba?

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

President, pauper

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER writing a column ages ago about the differences between rich and poor. I remember vaguely only parts of it, which went something like this:

If you're rich, you're eccentric; if you're poor, you're loony. If you're rich, you're a man of the world; if you're poor, you're a degenerate. If you're rich, you're an imbiber of spirits; if you're poor, you're a drunk. If you're rich, you're indulgent; if you're poor, you're a slob. If you're rich, you're shrewd; if you're poor, you're a crook. If you're rich, you profit; if you're poor, you steal. If you're rich, you love women; if you're poor, you're a lecher. If you're rich, you are incontinent; if you're poor, you're full of vices. If you're rich, you're full of pipe dreams; if you're poor, you're full of s--t. If you're rich, you stray from the narrow path; if you're poor, you commit a crime. If you're rich, you're pardoned; if you're poor, you're hanged.

There's a variation on that to be found in the spectacle of the last few years of this country. In lieu of rich and poor though, president and pauper more properly fit the bill.

But let's begin with vice president first and reverse the order of presentation:

If you're a pauper, you're craven; if you're a vice president, you're cautious. If you're a pauper, you hide under the bed; if you're a vice president, you adopt a wait-and-see attitude. If you're a pauper and you join a fight when it's safe, you're an opportunist. If you're a vice president and you join a fight when it's safe, you have perfect timing. If you're a pauper, you admit to being a coward. If you're a vice president, you point to a dead pope as your strength. If you're a pauper and you run away from a fight, you become a leper. If you're a vice president and you run away from a fight, you become president.

If you're a pauper and you promise not to beat up your wife again on the grave of your mother, you're a reformed ass. If you're a president and you promise not to beat up your country again on the grave of Jose Rizal, you're a reformed hero. If you're a pauper and you decide to beat up your wife anyway after seven months, you're an incorrigible thug. If you're a president and you decide to beat up your country anyway after seven months, you're a corrigible savior. If you're a pauper and you turn your back on your word, you're a goddamn liar. If you're a president and you turn your back on your word, you're enlightened by God. If you're a pauper and you beat up your wife again, her brothers beat you up in turn, or hack you to pieces. If you're a president and you beat up your country again, your supporters drumbeat your virtues and your PR hacks do a hack job on the public. If you're a pauper, you lie, you die. If you're a president, you lie, you live.

If you're a pauper, your wife hears you saying, "Hello, Grace," you will be angry and act innocent. If you're a president, your country hears you saying, "Hello, Garci," you will be angry and act innocent. If you're a pauper and your wife hears you plotting to cheat with Grace, you will say she is an eavesdropper and order her to mind the kitchen. If you're a president and your people hear you plotting to cheat with Garci, you will say they are eavesdroppers and order them to mind their business. If you're a pauper and your wife finds you in bed with Grace, you will demand to know what's wrong with it since you were just out to protect her breasts. If you're a president and your country finds you in cahoots with Garci, you will demand to know what's wrong with it since you were just out to protect your votes.

If you're a pauper and your wife catches you two-timing her, you will not sleep well at night for fear of what might happen to your crowning glory. If you're a president and your country catches you two-timing it, you will not sleep well at night for fear of what might happen to your crown.

If you're a pauper and you're caught cheating your wife, you send yourself into mournful exile. If you're a president and you're caught cheating your country, you send your husband into cheerful exile. If you're a pauper and your wife and her (male) kin order you to leave the house at once, you sigh, "I will not resist." If you're a president and your enemies and former friends order you to leave the palace at once, you swear, "I will not resign." If you're a pauper and your family doesn't like you, you *hakot* your belongings. If you're a president and your country doesn't like you, you *hakot* a crowd. If you're a pauper and have nobody left to turn to, you tell your troubles to the cigar-chomping occupant of a tree named Kapre. If you're a president and have nobody left to turn to, you tell your troubles to the cigar-chomping occupant of a doghouse named Tabako.

If you're a pauper and you keep coveting things, you are called greedy. If you're a president and you keep coveting things, you are called an economist. If you're a pauper and you keep stealing things, you are called a thief. If you're a president and you keep stealing things, you are called hard-working. If you're a pauper and you usurp somebody else's job, you are called a scab. If you're a president and you usurp somebody else's office, you are called a snob. If you're a pauper and you've committed a crime, you are turned over to the uniformed face-wreckers. If you're a president and you've committed a crime, you are made over by the coat-and-tied image-makers.

If you're a pauper and you show no pride, you are called *kapalmuks*. If you're a president and show no shame, you are called resolute. If you're a pauper and cling like Epoxy to what isn't yours, you are called *kapit-tuko*. If you're a president and cling like Mighty Bond to what isn't yours, you are called ... (Fill in the blank)

Regrouping of middle forces

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

LAST Saturday's prayer rally at the Luneta staged by political forces allied with President Macapagal-Arroyo is being criticized as being packed with the *hakot* crowd. The perception stems from the fact that hundreds of buses and jeeps lined up Roxas Boulevard. I made it a point to cover that rally, just as I watched the opposition rally last Wednesday from a vantage point, in order get the pulse in both camps. (Rallies are also an excellent source of interviews for political journalists, as the politicians are all there.)

From what I saw, there was indeed *hakot* on both sides, but then, what rally in RP doesn't have it? For instance, at the Luneta rally, Parañaque Rep. Ed Zialcita readily admitted to me that he provided transportation for his constituents, but he did not pay them anything. I suppose the practical reality is that given the difficulty in moving about here, a leader is assured of delivering followers if they have transportation.

* * *

One thing I noticed at the Luneta rally was that many of the middle forces that filled Edsa I and II were present there. Among the groups I saw were those of Bessie Buencamino, Baby Caparas and Darle Zamuco, who came with Oscar Barrera and his sister Angie; the business group of Vivian Yuchengco and ladies from Concerned Women of the Philippines. In fact, that prayer rally proved to be a reunion of civil society, and the common remark was, "*Ano ba ito,* 19 years after Edsa we're back in the streets!" Resigned Cabinet members Dinky Soliman and Ging Deles doubtless draw support from some civil society groups, but it looks like GMA has also retained her following among the middle forces. One reason may be their fear that a post-GMA scenario would bring even more chaos, as each of the opposition leaders seems to have his own formula on how to run the government.

* * *

But the point missed by most critics is that *hakot* crowds won't materialize if their leaders are not for either the opposition or GMA. The Luneta rally drew huge support for GMA from the local government units; 13 out of the 17 Metro Manila mayors are for her, the only ones against her being Jejomar Binay of Makati, JV Ejercito of San Juan, Toby Tiangco of Navotas and Peewee Trinidad of Pasay. I didn't see a single senator present, but there was a big turnout of congressmen as well as governors and mayors from Central Luzon. In other words, the bulk of those who turned up at Luneta was made up mainly of locally elected officials who brought their constituents (*hakot* to the pundits). By contrast, the Makati opposition rally drew few LGUs, so that warm bodies had to be provided by Binay and the militant Left. This is not surprising, for as has been noted by political pundits, the opposition did not really have a national political structure in the last elections, having relied mainly on FPJ's fabulous movie star appeal.

More on what I call the "LGU phenomenon" later.

* * *

Peter Favila deserves the trade portfolio. I have known him for sometime now, as we have both served on the board of the Alay sa Kawal (ASK) Foundation, an NGO led by Edgardo Espiritu and Ramon Pedrosa dedicated to the welfare of the common soldier and his family. Peter took care of special projects for ASK, and one thing is certain: DTI people will find this amiable guy very easy to work with. He brings a wealth of experience in banking, having been president of the Philippine National Bank, during which he chaired the Asian Bankers Association, a regional connection which should serve him in good stead now. He was also associated before with Allied Bank and served as chair of the SME development committee of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is also "battle-tested," for during the early 1980s, when RP lapsed into a debt-payment moratorium, he was part of the crisis team jointly formed by the Central Bank and the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

* * *

As for Alexander Arevalo, who was appointed to head the Bureau of Customs, he is not just, contrary to what some critics say, "FVR's man." "Balong," as the new BOC chief is called, was "inherited" by President Estrada, who asked him to continue what he had begun under FVR: the computerization program of the Palace. Arevalo is a low-key professional and technocrat whose skills should serve the BOC well.

* * *

Guests at a recent NBN program hosted by Secretary Cerge Remonde were three retired generals: veteran combat officer Maj. Gen. Cesar Tapia, Brig. Gen. Jose C. Bello Jr., chair and president of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (Agfo), and Brig. Gen. Paterno Lomongo, Agfo director and former PC officer. That program was timely as the Agfo statement had just come out, which Bello read. It asserted that the over 700-strong club of retired and active generals strongly supports the AFP chief of staff and PNP director general in the performance of their duties to uphold the law, defend the Constitution and maintain peace and order. Pleading that the AFP and PNP should be "insulated" from partisan politics, Agfo pledged to work and defend the Constitution and the Republic "so that justice, liberty and democracy shall always prevail," as it called for the "peaceful resolution" of the political crisis.

What was interesting was the assertion of the three retirees, all graduates of the PMA, that they had not forgotten the pledge of allegiance to the Constitution that they made as second lieutenants at the PMA a long time ago. At one point, Remonde was nearly brought to tears when Tapia asserted that if need be, they "old fogeys" won't hesitate to don the uniform once again and defend the motherland. Calls flooded NBN from all over the country that evening, with one message: What did they feed these old soldiers at the PMA that they don't seem to feed the younger officers anymore?

Our ancestral neighborhood

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

KOTA KINABALU—This is my second visit to this city, and 10 years after, the physical changes are quite obvious. There are now malls and shopping centers and huge multi-story government centers. Dominating the view of the coastal road is the city mosque, its gleaming white turrets and dome of blue and gold shimmering and appearing, in the distance, to be floating on the ocean itself.

It is a city coming to its own, though despite the building boom, it retains much of its provincial airs. Mount Kinabalu looms far in the distance, veiled by clouds. And the tropical rainforest, one of the biggest tourism draws in the area, is never far away. Mountainsides teeming with trees line the highway, reminding us of the drive around Subic. At the five-star Nexus Resort, where our group is booked, signs in our rooms warn: "Due to our close proximity to the Borneo Rainforest, you may occasionally see monitor lizards swimming in the ponds, migratory egrets feeding, exotic insects, geckos, ducks, other wildlife such as monkeys, mousedeer, and up to 50 types of birds in the surrounding areas. Very rarely you may encounter garden snakes. Do not be alarmed. Just remember to keep your distance."

KK is a city that has just about shed its frontier beginnings and is settling into a new urban identity. Young folk troll Centre Point, the city's biggest mall, in the latest hip-hop styles, but just outside the entrance, squatting on the steps, is a quiet, sullen delegation of young men from the countryside, casting envious glances at their carefree counterparts.

* * *

KOTA Kinabalu is also a city where Filipinos have quite a presence. The driver of the van that fetched us from the airport and our guide around the city the next day both claimed Pinoy ancestry. Our driver said his grandfather had settled in Sabah in the 1960s, and that he knew a smattering of Tagalog and Cebuano, which he promptly shared with us. Jason, our guide, said his parents spoke Tagalog and Chabacano, but "sadly, they did not teach us to speak their language."

Jason was nevertheless familiar with contemporary Filipino life, mainly through Philippine telenovelas that are broadcast on Malaysian TV. "Jericho Rosales is very popular here," he averred, even if "Pangako sa Iyo," where "Echo" made his mark, has long ended its run. Other Pinoy soap operas are still airing, though, and Jason wanted to know if it was true, as his mother told him, that "the actor who plays the mayor in one show was a very famous singer in the Philippines." Of course he was, we said, since he was referring to Tirso Cruz III.

When I inquired about "Little Manila," a village of houses on stilts populated by Filipinos from Sulu that friends had pointed out during my first visit, Jason looked at me blankly. Later I understood why, for "Little Manila" has since been re-named "Mengkabong Water Village" and is now a tourist attraction. It is identified as "a settlement of Bajaus, the descendants of pirates who set foot on this land in early 19th Century, (who are now) fishermen." Well, at least the tourism authorities now recognize the links between Sabah and the Philippines, and how Borneo is, in the eyes of Tausugs and Badjaos and Suluanons, part of the ancestral neighborhood.

The "Filipino Market," though, is still up and running, having shed its clandestine beginnings. It is now a popular spot for those in search of handicraft, dried and salted fish and seafood, and the same assortment of goods found in the trading centers of Zamboanga.

* * *

THOUGH Islamic law prevails in the state of Sabah, for instance in regulations prohibiting the serving of pork even in a tourist establishment like Nexus Resort, KK is still predominantly Christian, with Roman Catholics making up the majority.

We had an opportunity to join KK's Catholic community for the lone English Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. We arrived 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the Mass and found the huge modernistic church nearly full. Impressive were the provisions made for parishioners with special needs, such as the presence of two sign-language interpreters for a cluster of hearing-impaired Mass-goers, many of them children. Watching them "sing" the hymns in sign language was quite a heartwarming sight.

During Communion, we visitors were brought up short by the admirable display of discipline and order. People receiving Communion stood up and queued according to their row, ensuring an orderly procedure. Apparently, even a "young" church such as that in Sabah (it was considered "missionary" territory as late as the 1970s) has a lot to teach us.

* * *

FROM CHURCH, we proceeded to another Sunday ritual, the Sunday Market on Jaya Street: three blocks of stalls selling everything from souvenir items to dried herbs, from traditional Malayan snacks to pirated DVDs, from batik wear to costume jewelry, genuine crocodile teeth and even, so the salesman proclaimed, dried crocodile genitals.

Many of the tribal crafts looked familiar, resembling those made by our own tribal peoples, especially in Mindanao. The food is also quite familiar, especially the rice-based snack items that look and taste like homegrown *kakanin*, like *sapin-sapin, puto, kutchinta and ginataan*, though in KK it is simpler and uses fewer *sahog*.

In so many ways, visiting KK seems so much like a visit to the old hometown. Even if, by some outlandish miracle, the government's claim to Sabah were to be recognized, it's doubtful the state's Islamic identity could be altered, time and inculturation having ensured its permanent influence. Still, we could always be good neighbors, acknowledging and celebrating the many things we have in common.

Funerals and weddings

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE CYNICS may tell you there's not much difference between funerals and weddings especially since we've taken to having parties every night of a wake. At the turn of the century, there were certain customs that American observers found quaint enough to write about them.

The body would be drawn on a hearse by white horses, the driver sitting aloft, wearing a high beaver hat. The hearse was usually preceded by a brass band, sometimes playing an incongruous tune like "Johnny, Get your Gun," or "There'll be a Hot Time in the Old Town To-night." ("Johnny get your gun, get your sword, get your pistol/ Nigger on the house-top, won't come down.") Most Filipinos played by ear and obviously found the tune attractive even if they didn't understand the lyrics.

If the deceased was a person of means, there would be long lines of hired carriages following the hearse filled with friends and mourners. Owing to the heat, the dead were generally buried on the same day as the day of their death. The well-to-do were interred in vaults within the church or connected with it, where their bodies remained as long as the family paid rent. If not, the bones were subsequently thrown into a bone yard.

The poor, of course, had a rotten time of it, as usual. Two men would bear the corpse in a mat attached to a pole borne on their shoulders, switching from time to time to relieve themselves of the weight. The church bells would ring while the priest, sitting on a chair, "devoted his time equally to fanning himself and saying prayers in the mechanical manner." There were seldom many mourners.

Marriage ceremonies may have been more entertaining to the Americans. We are informed that girls were married off at the age of 11 or 12. Among the minorities, engagements were arranged before birth. But marriages among the Tagalogs and Visayans were arranged by the parents and had much to do with dowries.

The groom or his family paid for the wedding feast and the young couple started married life in the home of one of the parents. The wife remained mistress of her property and the groom had no claim on it. The surname of the mother would be added to that of the father Spanish-style (a custom that now appears to be lost).

Since one had to fast before receiving Communion and it must have been unheard for the bride or the groom or any of the wedding party not to do so, the affianced couple went to confession the evening before. Perhaps because of the traditional fast that had to be observed, weddings were solemnized early, at 5 in the morning.

The wedding party composed of relatives and close friends would accompany the bride from her house. After the Mass, the priest would place a mantle over the couple to symbolize the bodily union. Then they were asked the usual questions. As they left the church, a bowl of coins was passed to them. The new husband would take a handful and give them to his wife who received them and returned them to the bowl.

The wedding feast was called *catapusan,* meaning not an ending but a gathering of friends. All the notables were invited as well as all the relatives. The buffet table would be laden with liquors, chocolates and cakes. Betel nuts and cigars and cigarettes were offered to the guests.

This was followed by the entertainment where a boy and girl faced each other singing a *kundiman*. They would then dance around each other, keeping step to the music provided by a native orchestra. Sometimes another girl would dance with a glass of water on her head.

An American describes what may have been a typical provincial wedding of a town apothecary and his fiancée where the three foreigners arrived for the ceremony at 4:30 in the morning, only to wait for an hour before the candles were even lighted in the church and the other guests begun to arrive. The men wore freshly-laundered shirts, and the ladies' garments ranged from black to the brightest colors, their heads covered with veils.

The sponsors arrived with the orchestra composed of violins, cello and horn which they may have paid for. The groom waited at the church door for the bride, who arrived in the only *quilez* in town accompanied by three of her female relatives. She wore a skirt of heavy brocade pink silk with a cabbage-leaf pattern. Her blouse was of embroidered *piña* with pink rosebuds, her veil held by a tiny wreath of orange blossoms.

The wedding march was a "dreamy waltz" (the wedding march we're familiar with may have come in later with Americans) as the groom offered his hand to the bride. Friends and others followed the party to the middle of the church where the priest, accompanied by acolytes, stood to welcome them. The best man, in the meantime, had provided a handful of $20 gold pieces for the groom to pass to the priest who then gave them to the bride and back again to the groom. The sexton eventually returned the coins to the owner while everyone stared at the amount of wealth this represented.

The wedding nuptials were conducted in both Spanish and Latin (the bride was heard to remark that she didn't understand squat of what was said) and afterwards the wedding party moved to the bride's house for breakfast. One of the guests was arrested for being an insurgent captain just as the apothecary and his bride were driven to Manila in the *quilez*. The Americans were sufficiently considerate to allow him to attend the wedding.

(G. Wheeler, "Our Islands & their People," Vol. II, 1899.)

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Barbie syndrome

YOUNG BLOOD

Tara Jerika B. Cabullo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

EVER since I was kid, I knew that I was destined to be great. Every Christmas, my mom would drag me in front of our relatives and ask me to play the piano. And since I was a great kid, with great piano-playing abilities, I would play. Beethoven was my favorite as was George Pachebel.

My early years were a constant swirl of events, with everyone praising me for being a great kid. I would go home with pink cheeks, not from make up but from bring pinched so many times. And people's flattering words just seemed to hang around and never go away. With my talent at the piano, my pigtails and my rosy cheeks, I was the perfect girl.

Sometimes, I felt bad for my two scrawny cousins, Mikka and Karla. They never got half the attention that I got. No wonder they were so obnoxious to me sometimes. Oh, well, I thought at the time, maybe they were jealous.

One time I overheard my Aunt Bettina telling them, "Why can't you be more like Anne? Look at her. Isn't she amazing?"

I just couldn't help it if I was liked by everybody.

I can't remember what year it was, but there was one Christmas morning when I dug at the usual mound of presents and found more than the usual supply of chocolates. There were also the usual stack of UNO cards, and then there was a large box wrapped in green glittery paper. I ripped off the wrapper immediately, wondering what it was. When I opened the box I saw the figure of a girl with long blond hair and blue eyes. She was dressed in white, a number that looked like my mom's tennis outfit. Her shoes were of plastic rubber and by her side was a mini racket, a mini towel, another white tennis outfit in another style and a mini headband. At the bottom part of the box were the words "Sporty Barbie."

I almost jumped in surprise when a hand touched my shoulder. My Aunt Gracie, who had been standing over me smiled and said. "I see you got my gift. It's the in thing back in Los Angeles. Beautiful girls play with Barbie dolls, that's why I gave you one. She's perfect, isn't she? "

I nodded, and continued to stare at the doll, dumbfounded. Perfect? I thought that was me. If the doll was perfect, and I was perfect, then why wasn't she like me? Or more aptly, why wasn't I like her? I ran straight into the attic and hid the box with the doll under the old coffee table.

I would go to the attic every night to look at it. I just stared at it for a long time and tried to find the reason why I wasn't like her.

As I grew up, everybody seemed to change. My piano-playing sessions came in less frequent and fewer people were listening to me play. My classmates didn't want to play tag with me anymore. But, that was cool. I still got to play with the boys, although sometimes they would call me "Fatso."

My cousins Mikka and Karla were now the ones who were getting the attention and getting praised—Barbie-like.

One day I couldn't take it anymore, I jumped out of my bed and ran straight to where I had stashed my Barbie doll. I ripped the box open and stared at it for the longest time. I never spoke a word. And then I went back to my room.

It was the start of my revolution. It was the day I started going back to my world. I was perfect. And if the world thought that Barbie was the definition of perfect, so be it. I was going to show everyone that I could be like Barbie.

I learned that exercise was one way to get thin, so I walked the three kilometers from home to school. I tried not to eat, but I just couldn't give up chocolates completely. I learned from our Science class that they made people fat. So I needed to take less of them.

But then, I also learned that one could eat as much as she wanted and not get fat. This could be done by what they called "purging." Barfing. Different names, same task.

Which is what I did. I had fun eating all the food I loved, but stricken by nerves regurgitating what I have eaten. Sometimes, the thought of not eating at all was more tempting. But then, if all the food would have to be eaten, then they'd be gone. Better eat them quickly, so they'd be gone faster. And so I ate more, and barfed more.

Three months later, my waistline was still the same, and I had gained five more pounds.

But just as I was getting frustrated, I realized that whoever declared that Barbie was perfect owed me an explanation. You couldn't find perfection by just looking at her waistline. There was no such thing as a perfect body. Sorry, Mattel, but if there was, Barbie just had to come in different weights and waistlines.

Now I can tell myself: So what if I'm not like her? There are perks that come with being fat.

Funny how I can now admit that I am one. I would never have known the difference if it weren't for Barbie. I am fat, but that doesn't mean there is a flaw in my personality. In high school, all the pretty, reed-thin girls got all the flowers. In college, a growing number of guys are dumping their skinny girlfriends to go for girls like me, who have more body mass. Hey, we're actually more huggable. And to quote Ralph Waldo Emerson, to be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.

Just looking at me, you'd believe that I have succeeded.

Tara Jerika B. Cabullo, 19, is a 4th year Mass Communication student at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

Unpopular

"The ringtones, which last about 30 seconds, are smashingly popular because we have a smashingly unpopular president."

—TXTpower convenor Anthony Crus on the big number of people downloading the "Hello Garci" ringtone

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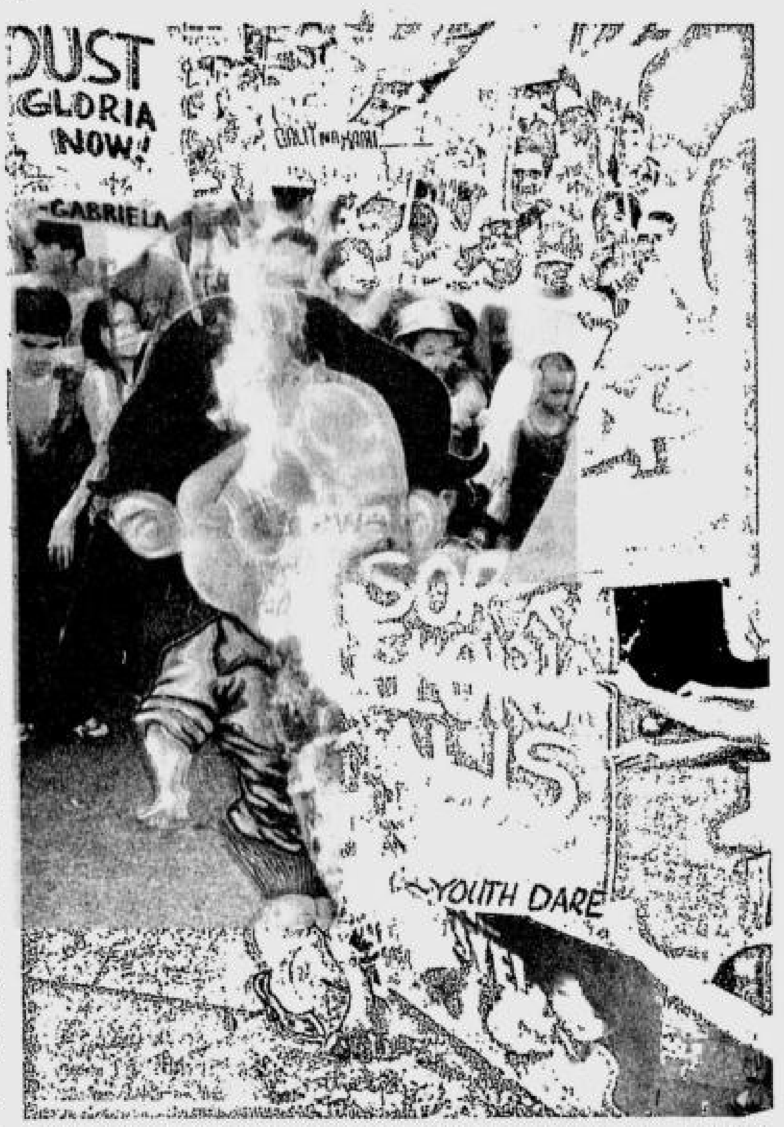
LETTERS

Shutting up the militants



MILITANTS burn an effigy of President Macapagal-Arroyo PDI PHOTO

IF I were in Manila right now, I would also initiate a demonstration—but neither against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo nor the opposition, but against the militant groups. These groups always advocate principled governance. But what they preach far contradicts what they practice.

Talk about principle. They hated Cory, they despised FVR, now they loathe GMA. To top it all, they go into coalition with the forces of the very people who support(ed) the men they helped topple from power—Marcos and Erap. See them lately in Makati with Imee Marcos and JV Ejercito on the stage? One wonders why the principle they are fighting for always seems to go against ruling administrations.

Talk about patriotism. They put up roadblocks which cause heavy traffic during their demonstrations. They transform the metropolis into their garbage cans during their rallies. They vandalize the LRT and MRT posts with their profanities. And the best part is when a leader of one of the militant groups asks the OFWs not to remit their hard-earned money to their families so as to pressure GMA to step down. "Don't feed your family so GMA will step down!"

Further, one can see how unreasonable these people can be: the OFW remittances serve as our economy's pillar; if they aren't sent, the Philippines would be transformed from a country to just a piece of land in no time.

Talk about industry and nation-building. Most weekdays, they are in Makati, in Edsa or in Mendiola, which would make one assume that these people are either unemployed or always on leave. They don't go to work so they don't pay taxes. They don't pay taxes yet they are the ones who demand so much from the government.

Talk about poverty alleviation. Instead of spending their funds on demonstration materials, why don't they just use them to help the poorest of our countrymen, or even themselves? They can very well use it to start a livelihood project or a cooperative. They can be of real help to the poor if they just try to avoid being one.

Here's the big deal: to "cleanse" our current constitutional system, they insist on putting up a civilian council to replace the presidency. Here's the catch: they must be part of the council.

I really wish the middle-class workers in our country would start a protest action against these militant groups not for anything really, but just to make them shut up.

—LESTER L. JAVIER,
Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Co. Ltd,
Kyungnam, Republic of Korea

Not a representative of SSS members

AS a longtime member of the Social Security System, I consider Conrado Banal's protestations in behalf of SSS members in the Equitable PCIBank controversy hollow and insincere.

When Banco de Oro and the SSS went into their secret agreement last year for the purchase of SSS shares in EPCIB at plunderous buying rate, he was loud in his support of the anomalous deal. And he lambasted all those who opposed the deal, including Sen. Sergio Osmeña III and the family of Chair Antonio Go. He did not consider the interest and welfare of SSS members then.

When BDO and the SSS thereafter concocted their Swiss-formula scheme, which favored BDO and tagged the same low price for the SSS shares, Banal vigorously supported the scheme. He even criticized the senators and workers' organizations that filed a case before the Supreme Court to stop the sale. He did not talk then about the interest and welfare of the SSS members.

Now that BDO and the SSS, together with the Government Service Insurance System and Kokoy Romualdez, have cooked up a new scheme for BDO's takeover of EPCIB, he is again totally in support of the plan. But this time around, he is saying that he is doing it in behalf of the millions of SSS members.

Banal has a right to his opinion, whatever it may be. But he should cut the crap that he is speaking for us, SSS members.

—RAMON DOROL,
Biri, Northern Samar,
ramdorol@yahoo.com.ph

Public school in Quezon collects fees

THIS complaint may seem to be late because the school year has started. But I think this should be known by the concerned authorities.

It was announced that no fees should be collected from elementary and high school students when they enroll in public schools. But this has been breached by the administration of a provincial public high school in Quezon province.

My aunt and my cousin went to this school for enrollment. To their dismay, the teachers asked them to pay P440 (entrance fee) for my cousin's admission to the school. As proof of payment, they were given a piece of paper indicating they already paid that particular amount.

Maybe this should be investigated. I believe the fee was illegal. And I am concerned for the less fortunate who could not pay the entrance fee.

Accordingly, many parents were very disappointed, but they didn't have any choice. It is the only public high school in town. There was another school there but it was closed down two years ago.

My *tita* has told me that, as the school year progresses, more fees are being collected but these are not accounted for. She said the parents can't find a way to tell the officials who are very prominent and powerful in town. This has been the parents' problem over the years.

—NAME WITHHELD ON REQUEST

Proclamation constitutional

THIS is with regard to the news item titled "IT expert says GMA could not have won by 1-M vote." (PDI, 7/3/05) It reported that House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said that the opposition challenged the National Board of Canvassers (NBC) when it refused to open even just one ER from any of the ARMM provinces.

The Constitution provides in Article 8 Section 4, that it is the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), not the national canvassing board, that has jurisdiction over charges of electoral fraud. The role of the NBC is ministerial in nature as debates in the 1986 ConCom will show. Also, records of the proceedings then will show that the opposition wanted the canvassing committee to go through the election returns of 144 of the 179 certificates of canvass.

If the NBC had acceded to that opposition request, it would have committed an illegal and unconstitutional act. Section 30 of RA 7166 (An Act Providing for Synchronized National and Local Elections) allows the opening of election returns only as an exception, not as a rule, when it appears that any certificate of canvass or any supporting statement of votes by precinct bears erasures or alterations which may cast doubt as to the veracity of the number of votes. Only then can the ERs be opened. The NBC, Namfrel and the opposition had the same copies of CoCs, and the veracity of such was all certain.

The opposition wanted the NBC to be the PET. This was obviously in violation of the Constitution. If the opposition had its way then, there would have been no proclamation for years as each election return, numbering thousands, would have been subjected to the same scrutiny by the lawyers of all candidates as each certificate of canvass. Clearly, this was not the intent of the framers of the Constitution.

To reiterate, assuming that there was electoral fraud committed as alleged, the constitutional remedy was to have the matter brought to the PET. What we did as a canvassing board in proclaiming the President in June 2004, upon determining the authenticity and due execution of the CoCs, was consistent with the requirements of the Constitution. It was in fulfillment of a constitutional duty.

In addition, twice the opposition tried to delay the national canvass by bringing matters to the Supreme Court and twice they were rebuffed. The debates lasted a total of 30 days. The opposition was given every opportunity to raise and present its case and the board gave the opposition all the leeway and acted on all its requests, provided that the same was done without violating the Constitution.

—SEN. FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN,
Rm. 603 GSIS Financial Center,
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Anti-people practice of the MMDA

IT was not I who was involved but a peanut vendor, perhaps, with a family to feed, like you, like my father, like everybody else (who is hardly able to cope with the soaring prices basic commodities and services).

Unfortunately, he was not able to run away when MMDA men in blue (MIB) suddenly got off their "loot" truck and went after him and the other vendors. His cart along with his goods was instantly carried into the MMDA truck. I stood frozen like many other passersby. After the MIB had left, I asked him if he could still get back his cart but, in dismay and utter helplessness, he just shook his head.

The way he was treated was downright heartless and I couldn't help crying as I walked away from the vendor. I wanted to stop the MIB men from taking away the man's cart but I didn't. I couldn't help the man and this all the more pained me and made me angry.

I am writing this in the hope that in this way I could seek retribution for such an injustice; that people who see the MIB every day on their routinary attack against the impoverished vendors would oppose and fight the abusive, anti-poor, anti-people practice of the MMDA.

I have seen a child vendor, as young as 12, whose feet was severely scalded by the boiling cooking oil which spilled after he tried to save his cart from attacking MIB. I have seen an old woman struggle with about four MIB who were trying to grab her stall umbrella, cigarettes and *buko* cooler. In helplessness, she was only able to utter, "*Parang hindi din kayo mahihirap.*" The grief of the vendors was evident to the passersby, jeep passengers and drivers (who themselves have conflicts with the MMDA traffic system) who witnessed these inhuman attacks.

Is this the best that the government can do to impress upon the people that it is "doing" something? Is this what the MMDA chair claims as "*urbanidad*," "discipline" or "peace and order in the streets"?

These vendors have families to feed. It is food from the table that they are deprived of when they are driven away from the streets.

The government's condoning of this unjust and inhuman treatment is not the answer to the disorder and traffic in the metropolis. If the government had only provided jobs for the people, then nobody would opt to peddle their wares amid the harsh environs of metro streets. The point is, the employment rate has been on an ever-increasing trend and basic social services are very low in terms of quality and access as the country suffers through a financial crisis.

With so many incidents of lay-offs, retrenchments and forcible resignation, the people are forced to work at menial jobs. Most appalling of all, government agencies, such as the MMDA, are making the current crisis harder for the majority of the people to endure.

—MAY VARGAS
executive director,
National Minority Resource Center,
Barangay Pinyahan,
Diliman, Quezon City

Pichay wrong on LGC Logistics

THIS is with reference to the news article "Pichay accuses Lina, Parayno of corruption." (PDI, 7/10/05) We would like to categorically state, for the public's information, that LGC Logistics is not involved in irregularities as Rep. Prospero Pichay suggests.

While it is true that former Customs Commissioner Bert Lina's early plans and business strategies included the establishment of an Internet-based, one-stop system to facilitate the activities of the export and import sectors, these were completed before he assumed the position of Customs commissioner. Such strategies were designed to reduce the cost of business and at the same time keep the forwarding industry in tandem with the requirements of the global community.

Moreover, and more importantly, he completely divested his business interests prior to his assumption as commissioner. The business decisions reached after the former commissioner's divestment are therefore the new owner's. However, please be informed that the so-called "contract" was never implemented on advise of the former commissioner, precisely because of "delicadeza."

If Pichay wants to meet with us concerning this matter, we would gladly do so. We urge him, however, to please check his facts before releasing these to the media.

LGC Logistics will continue to conduct its business with the highest standards of integrity and honesty as instilled by the former Customs commissioner in his former companies. We may provide information that some politicians may legally require, but please, keep us out of politics and unfounded and baseless charges.

—BENJAMIN C. ZETA,
vice president for corporate services,
LGC Logistics Inc.,
Carmelray Industrial Park 2,
Km. 54, National Highway,
Barangay Tulo, Calamba, Laguna

Did she talk to God?

AMONG THE "many words of wisdom" in your newspaper last July 12 on the subject of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' statement, we were particularly struck by Belinda Olivares-Cunanan's "...their statement, TRULY (emphasis ours) inspired by the Holy Spirit..." Are we to infer that Cunanan's source was the Holy Spirit himself/herself?

This reminds us of Thomas Ssasz's famous quote: "When you talk to God, that is prayer; when God talks to you, that is schizophrenia."

—MARGARITA HOLMES
and JEREMY BAER,
Quezon City

INQBOX

Amid the confusion and controversies, what are your hopes and dreams for our country and people?

Kailangan natin ng malaking HIMALA! yun lang!
—cynthia g. enriquez, marikina

that Govt officials will stop deir corrupt practices & work 4 d good of d filipino especially d poor. Justice 4 all Filipinos.
—evian, 39, iloilo

enough food, decent shelter, good education, good paying jobs 4 each of Filipino family, and safety.
—rosine c. rivera, 61,

4 every Filipino, 2 uphold the constitution & live their dreams of a more peaceful & prosperous society.
—Cristobal Fernandez, 22, Dagupan City

MY hope is DAT GOD WIL just STRAITEN D MINDS of thez OPPOSITION, ENAF 4 D distracting d TRANQUILTY of d NATION, ENAF!!!
—edwin s. mondalo, 28, taguig city

I hope all these ill-motivated political bickering will stop so that the economy will recover.
—Joey Perez, 39, Dagupan City

im not only Hoping and Dreaming but I'm also Praying 4 LOVE, PEACE and UNITY 4 everyone of us and 4 our nation. GOD BLESS!Ü
—ashley perez, pasay

i want des situation 2 finish immediately and 4 GMA not 2 resign..
—Roldan E Diocampo, 50, sta rosa

i hope na sana magkroon na ng pagkakaisa sa mga tao, sana hindi na rin maging mapaghiganti ang oposisyon, sana magkaisa nah ang bansa..
—jason mamawal, Tarlac City

i hope our leaders wud stop acting selfishly.
Their self-serving actions have ruined d country.
—Gerard Gumban, davao city

I wish dat all FILIPINOS have d ability 2 wisely choose our LEADERS and collectively make supreme sacrifices.
—gigi sicat, muntinlupa cty

...And world peace!

I hope tht there wil b a third option between opposition and administration—a UN or ASEAN led transition to new governance!
—Domingo Bosi, 25, Makati

FiLipinOs wiL b united as one.
—aiza agman, 22, zamboanga city

Every1 shld B workin 4 d staBility of der family n country, refrainin frm always goin 2 d streets. Sacrifices have 2 be made, b4 complainin.
—candice cerezo, 20, manila

My hope that H.E. PGMA will survive SO thez POLITICAL & ECONOMIC CRISIS WIL END. NO More worries, Losers B HAPY 4 god's sake!
—edwin s. mondalo, 28, taguig city

i hope dat d people of d philippines must start 2 hav discipline and pray 4 peace so dat God's Will, will prevail
—jose francisco dizon, 36, olongapo

dat ol people wil have good & satisfying work & dat people will be corrupt & graft-free.
—gilda Miguel, san mateo, rizal

perhaps we filipinos cud consider change starting wid how we view ourselves as filipinos dat we may take pride, act wid discipline.
—Ian D. Laput, 28, mandaluyong city

Dream ko para sa bayan at kapwa Filipino?
Sana may dream ang bawa't isa para sa bayan at kapwa Filipino.
—L. Decena Martin, San Agustin, Isabela

The UNIFICATION and STRONG MORAL FIBER of the FILIPINO PEOPLE in government and in society.
—Greg Saraos, Intramuros, manila

my hope is my dream in our country. i know its impossible, but lets keep on dreaming.
—ROLDAN M. PEJANA, 33, ZAMBOANGA city

I'd rader request america 2 conquer us again & be 1 of der colony. Puny civilization due 2 learned, but corrupt politicians
—Alma Dangga, 19, Bguio City

that sOmday we wil no longer b divided as admin & opOsitiOn. May we find d value of Unity as d Only hOpe of our cOuntry.
—raechelle montalbo, 19, manila

my hope 4 our country & pipol amdst d confusion & controversies—dat dey may seek & pRay 2 God, 4 HE aloNe can give answers.
—emily t. batisla-on, 29, bacolod cty

I hope that our country will be peaceful, and will weather the storm that our country is experiencing.
—Gibson Noel Barde Hamlag, 14, Tagbilaran

I hope na matapos na ang problema, at lalabas na ang katotohanan.
—Jurilex Maglinte, 12, Tandag S.D.S

sana magkaisa ung mga pilipino at sana hindi magkakawatak-watak yung ating bansa, at sana gumanda na ang takbo ng buhay.
—rafie ira lee caindo, 18, tacloban

We need to, work, whether you're poor or rich, for a better nation.
—CharliZzie, 16, CAVITE

I pray that our country and people become more stable, peaceful and more prosperous. Our hard-working and gifted fellow Filipinos deserve a much better quality of life!
—maria, quezon city

i hope that the country would finally set to gain its due destiny.
—Jaime, baguio

Dear Readers, Text us your comments, suggestions and views on today's news or how it was delivered. Tell us about the news you are interested in and the things you want improved in your favorite newspaper. Text INQUIRER <section keyword> name/city/message and send to 283 (Smart) or 2207 (Globe). The section keywords are indicated in the logo of each section.

A Time To Move On

We are alumni and students of La Salle, who are compelled to say our piece in the wake of recent pronouncements attributed to the La Sallian community.

The La Sallian community is primarily an institution of learning and formation, and includes among its membership the studentry, the faculty, the administration, the alumni, and the Christian Brothers.

As such, even as we are dismayed that no account of our views as alumni were taken in the making of the La Sallian statement, we are distressed even further that the statements made have been of a primarily political nature.

We firmly believe that the La Sallian community must continue to focus on its mission as an institution of learning and formation. It is not within our discipline to take a lead role in the resolution of political issues.

Where its views are sought on concerns affecting the nation, we believe further that the La Sallian community must take care to convey views consistent with the principles and values that it seeks to instill in the youth entrusted to its care. It is not within our teaching to cast the first stone, nor to make judgments without proof.

As members of the La Sallian community, we support the call of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) for "a thorough, credible and independent process" to examine and verify all charges.

We believe this is the way forward -- for determining the truth behind all the allegations, for ensuring that justice is served through proper legal processes, and for identifying the reforms that must be instituted in our political system -- so we need never pass this way again.

We call on our fellow alumni, other members of the La Sallian community, and all concerned Filipinos, to leave behind the wounds and divisions that this crisis has wrought among us, and to move on to the next stage of discerning self-examination and constructive action for building the future of our nation.

Jose M. Concepcion

Eduardo Villarama
BSME '58

Sally C. Rueda
BSE ED 2003

Tess Veluz Mendoza

Mario L. Mendoza

D.V.

Stevie Lao
Class of LSGH 79

Hernando M. Bautista

Mariano Quesada Jr.

Jerry Bala
97 LSGH

Ed Ochoa 72

Philip Prieto

Veronica Abello

Emilio R. Abello

For Francisco G. Lichauco

For Patricia Lichauco

For Michael Lichauco

Reynaldo B. Guiao, Jr.
Class of '80

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RP safe from bird flu, tests show

By Jim Gomez
Associated Press

A LOW RISK version of bird flu has been found at a Bulacan duck farm but the country remains free of the deadly strain that has ravaged other Southeast Asian poultry industries, officials said yesterday.

The findings were contained in an initial report by an Australian laboratory, which examined samples from the duck farm in Calumpit town in Bulacan where authorities detected the first case of bird flu on July 8.

"The Philippines is free from any highly pathogenic avian influenza," the departments of agriculture and health said in a joint statement.

The Australian Animal Health Laboratory "found no active infection in the duck samples that were tested," according to the statement. "The ducks had been exposed to a low pathogenic avian influenza virus, but their natural systems apparently eliminated the low-risk flu strain."

Since 2003, tens of millions of chickens have died of bird flu or have been slaughtered in East and Southeast Asia. At least 54 people have died in Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia, most of them after coming into contact with birds infected with the H5N1 virus.

Indonesia has announced the deaths of three people who were suspected to have been infected with bird flu, though that has not been confirmed.

The director of the Philippines Bureau of Animal Industry, Jose Molina, said a 3-kilometer quarantine zone around the Calumpit farm will be lifted after 230 ducks were culled following the discovery of the low-risk avian flu strain.

Officials also plan to ask the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health to remove the Philippines from a list of countries hit by bird flu, and will continue strict surveillance to prevent future infection, Molina said.

He said the ducks in Calumpit may have been infected by migratory birds.

Agriculture and health officials reminded the public that chicken meat and properly cooked ducks and eggs, including a popular delicacy called "balut," were safe to eat.

The Philippines, which had been the only country in Asia with a significant poultry industry not affected by bird flu, has taken a number of precautionary measures, including strict bans on poultry imports from affected countries, in an effort to keep it out.

The Philippines' 150-billion-peso poultry industry employs 300,000 people.

DUCKS swim at a pond in Calumpit amid reports of the entry of the bird flu virus in the area.

REUTERS

Officials have been closely watching 25 areas, mostly swamplands and watering holes of migratory birds that can carry the virus, while imposing an import ban on live or uncooked poultry from at least 11 affected countries.

Molina said the virus in ducks was not transmitted to chickens.

"The movement of live chicken can be allowed subject to the usual shipping permit requirement. However, movement of ducks in the area be restricted to negative flocks based on surveillance tests by BAI and the Bulacan agriculture and veterinary offices," he said.

He also recommended the creation of new protocols for duck raising.

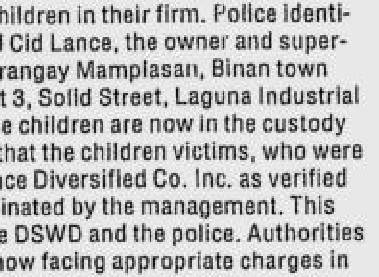
Bulacan officials welcomed the news on Monday by eating fried *itik* (duck) and *balut* (boiled duck eggs) to show that Bulacan is free from the bird flu virus. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

Major shoots colonel dead

CAMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao—An army major shot dead his superior inside the headquarters of Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade in Carmen, North Cotabato on Saturday. Maj. Antonio Peralta, commander of Task Force Mal-Mar, gunned down his superior, Col. Renerio Cuya, while they were inside the Bachelor Officers Headquarters at around 6:40 a.m. But Lt. Col. Franklin Del Prado, Sixth Infantry Division spokesperson, could not say how the shooting happened or what prompted it. Del Prado said Peralta did not resist arrest after the shooting. "We are still investigating the incident. Based on reports we received, Cuya and Peralta had a misunderstanding over something," Del Prado said. Peralta has been placed under the custody of the Carmen police station. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Fish kill hits Bataan towns

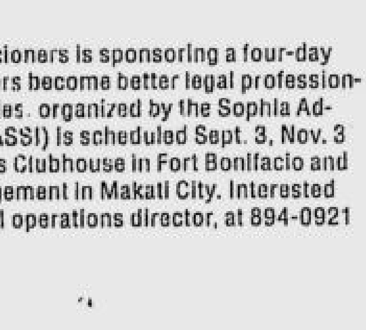


BALANGA CITY—Two coastal towns in Bataan were hit by fish kill incidents on Sunday, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said. Lydia David, Bataan BFAR chief, said fish floated dead in the waters off Abucay and Orion. She said the fish kill could be attributed to the decline in the oxygen level in the water prompted by a sudden change in weather conditions. The BFAR also conducted tests for possible red tide toxin contamination on green mussels (tahong) in the area but the tests yielded negative results. "There's nothing to worry about possible red tide contamination in Bataan," she said. *Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

2 arrested for child labor

BINAN, Laguna—Police operatives, in cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) offices in Southern Tagalog, have arrested two suspects for employing children in their firm. Police identified the suspects as Augusto Tan and Cid Lance, the owner and supervisor of the Diversified Co. Inc. in Barangay Mamplasan, Binan town with business address at Block 7, Lot 3, Solid Street, Laguna Industrial and Investment Park in this town. The children are now in the custody of the DSWD. Investigation showed that the children victims, who were employed by the suspects at the Prince Diversified Co. Inc. as verified by the DSWD last May 16, were terminated by the management. This made them file complaints before the DSWD and the police. Authorities then arrested the suspects who are now facing appropriate charges in court. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 held for marijuana bricks



BAGUIO CITY—Police on Monday arrested two men here for possession of more than P500,000 worth of marijuana bricks. Supt. Danilo Flordeliza, chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in the Cordillera, identified the suspects as Artemio Sagayo, 43, and Denson Bagnisen, 18, both residents of Bakun, Benguet. Recovered from them were 28 kilograms of dried marijuana leaves formed into bricks and a bar of marijuana resin or hashish. Flordeliza said the suspects were selling the marijuana bricks to a PDEA agent, who posed as a buyer, for P900 a kilogram. Police estimated the value of the confiscated bricks at P560,000 and of the hashish at P27,000 *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Seminar for lawyers

A SEMINAR provider for legal practicioners is sponsoring a four-day lecture series aimed at helping lawyers become better legal professionals. The LegalAdvantage Lecture series. organized by the Sophia Advanced Scholastic Solutions Inc. (SASSI) is scheduled Sept. 3, Nov. 3 and Nov. 26 at the Phil. Army Officers Clubhouse in Fort Bonifacio and Oct. 8 at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City. Interested parties may call Trissa Tismal, SASSI operations director, at 894-0921 or 893-4158.

Church group worried over rights abuses in Samar

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—An international pastoral ecumenical group has expressed "concern" over the reported human rights violations allegedly perpetrated by the military in Eastern Visayas.

"We extend an unequivocal message of international concern for the suffering we have seen here," said Clement John of the World Council of Churches (WCC), reading from a statement during a news conference on Sunday at the Hotel Alejandro here.

John, leader of the WCC team that talked to the families of alleged victims of human rights violations, said the stand of the ecumenical church movement was that violence and war against the citizenry would only perpetuate more violence and would not provide a resolution for the conflict.

"We pray that the people's fear will be alleviated through de-militarization, that extrajudicial killings and interrogation, intimidation and harassment will cease and that the people of Eastern Visayas will enjoy genuine freedom and peace, based on justice," said John, also a member of the WCC's human rights and legal desk.

A six-member team of the Geneva-based WCC was in Samar from July 15 to 17 on the invitation by the National Council of Churches in the Philippines following the killing of Rev. Edison Lapuz of the United Churches of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) last May 12 in San Isidro town, Leyte.

The group talked to the families of the eight alleged victims of human rights violations and some leaders of human rights groups and of the UCCP in Eastern Visayas.

They also talked to Major Gen. Jovito Palparan, head of the 8th Infantry Division, in his office at Camp Lukban, Catbalogan town in Samar. The group described the meeting as "extremely cordial."

Land cracks in Bohol town get wider, reach highway

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The soil movement in Jagna town, Bohol has worsened as the cracks have affected the national highway leading to the nearby town of Sierra Bullones, rendering it impassable to vehicles and isolating a sitio.

Jagna Mayor Exutero Lloren said passenger buses and jeepneys could not get to the interior town of Sierra Bullones because of the cracks on the national highway that had reached about 400 to 500 meters wide.

He said some motorcycles-for-hire (*habal-habal*) wanted to get through but the mayor strongly urged them not to risk it.

As a result, he added, passenger buses and other vehicles had to take other routes in going to Sierra Bullones.

Some passed by Duero town then to the unaffected road in Barangay Mayana, Jagna town before proceeding to Sierra Bullones.

Others took the longer route--passing through the coastal towns of Duero, Guindulman, Candijay and Alicia and then turned to Pilar town before reaching Sierra Bullones.

The cracks also isolated Sitio Ilawod in Barangay Mayana, Jagna town, which is along the affected national highway.

Lloren said 36 families in Sitio Ilawod also evacuated after the cracks destroyed their homes. Some cracks were about a foot deep and had split some houses into two, the mayor said.

The evacuation of 36 families brought to 46 the number of households affected by the soil movement. Ten families in Sitio Balikbayan also in Mayana had to be evacuated last July 11 after their houses were destroyed when the land gave way.

JDV promises federal state in Mindanao

BONGAO, Tawi-Tawi—Speaker Jose de Venecia vowed to push for the transformation of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) into a Federal State of Muslim Mindanao in a fresh major step by Congress to amend the Constitution.

De Venecia said the timetable for a shift to a unicameral federal parliamentary form of government from the current presidential system would start with a "historic debate on July 26," initially, on the mode of amending the Charter, whether or not it would be "through a constitutional convention, but most preferably, by Constituent Assembly."

A Constituent Assembly convenes both chambers of Congress into one body on a specific task of revising the Charter.

De Venecia said the country's 15 regions would be geographically reconstituted into Federal States, once a Parliamentary Federal Constitution is ratified by next year.

He said a federal setup would be more beneficial to Muslim Filipinos in terms of self-governance than decentralized and devolved national powers combined.

Earlier, Mindanao businessmen said they would only support calls for the establishment of a Mindanao Republic if clear economic policies for the new entity were defined.

Antonio Santos, chair of the Mindanao Business Council (MBC), said they also wanted to play a major role in the transformation of the island into an independent country.

Santos said that for an independent Mindanao to succeed, its movers should realize that the future of the island relies on its economy.

"We want the politicians to understand the situation that Mindanao's economy is very significant if they want Mindanao to be independent," Santos said.

The MBC has been pushing for a federal form of government.

DE VENECIA

Santos also said they would also support the creation of a separate government for Mindanao if this was done through a constitutional process.

"We must be very careful in such a way that we cannot be charged with secession," he said.

Romeo Serra, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (PCCCII) regional governor for southeastern Mindanao, said Mindanao political leaders pushing for an independent Mindanao should know that "the life of a republic is economy."

"You cannot create an independent Mindanao if you don't know where your economy is heading," he said.

The One People, One Mindanao, a group led by former transportation secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, has been rallying Mindanaoans to support the establishment of a separate government.

Alvarez has been making the rounds of Mindanao and claimed his group has been gaining support from local government executives.

The Confederation of Provincial Governors, City Mayors and Municipal Mayors League Presidents of Mindanao (Confed) has passed a resolution supporting Ms Arroyo during a meeting on Tuesday here.

Confed said the Constitution must be upheld.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said that if a power grab occurs, they might consider supporting the establishment of an independent Mindanao. *Nash Maulana, Judy Quiros and Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ABOVE 12 YRS OLD
ARE NOT ALLOWED

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

AGE LIMIT
Adults have taken over Baguio City's only public playground as the worn and rusty slide sets and swings have become too dangerous for their charges.

₱12M monthly losses traced to power deal

By Madonna T. Virola
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CITY OF CALAPAN—An official of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) said the government-owned power firm was forced to produce more electricity because of Mirant Global Corp.'s failure to provide its share of the power supply.

As a result, Napocor is now losing P12 million a month as a result, said Robert Davalos, Napocor Mindoro-Romblon area manager.

In a public hearing held here on July 14, Davalos said that if power supply in Mindoro was not privatized by the time Napocor's contract ended in May 2006, millions of pesos would be lost. Napocor subsidies have amounted to P500 million per year, he said.

The provincial information office cited a report of Clarito Aclan, Ormeco president, that the province currently consumed 27 megawatts of electricity at peak load.

Frequent brownouts

Only 25 mW are provided by the Napocor, through G.E. Energy Rental. This results in load shedding or rotation, giving rise to brownouts that usually take place during the peak period of 6 p.m. to 9 p.m..

Mirant supplies only 2-3.5 mW as one of its power plants is non-operational. It has a total capacity of 7.5 mW.

Ormeco said Mirant had contracted a minimum energy off-take or guaranteed take-or-pay provision of 50 million kilowatt-hours a year, which is equivalent to 40 percent of the province's power needs.

But, Morales said, Mirant has installed only 20 percent of the generating capacity in the province.

A company representative, however, claimed that they were not generating the contracted 4.1 million kWh a month because Ormeco was not buying their output.

Morales denied this, saying Ormeco bought and paid for every kWh Mirant delivered.

Plants conk out

The problem has been Mirant plants' failure to operate reliably and consistently, he said.

Ormeco wants to eliminate the punitive buyout provision in case of payment delinquency by Ormeco, unfavorable changes in law, or force majeure.

"This can hit Ormeco with P500 million in buyout penalty. We can end up being taken over by Mirant," Morales said.

"We reiterated to Mirant that Ormeco wants it to stay as a power supplier but we must correct the one-sided contract and make their base-load rate competitive for the long term."

Another power provider, Power One, is willing to provide 26-30 mW, but its contract with Ormeco is being opposed by Mindoro lawmakers, the League of Municipalities and other provincial officials.

Mystery

Felipe Ramos, Ormeco institutional services manager, said he was puzzled by the opposition to the Power One contract.

"I wonder who's behind this," he said, adding that Power One's rate of P5.91 was 10 percent cheaper than Mirant's P6.30, if fuel costs P16 per liter.

Rep. Rodolfo Valencia has come out in the open to oppose Power One. "It's a monopoly," he said.

Asked what he thought about Power One having lower rates than Mirant, Valencia said he did not know.

A peaceful negotiation meeting between Ormeco and Mirant will be held tomorrow in Pinamalayan, said Romeo Cuasay, Ormeco finance manager.

Exec says park closure will kill marine animals

By Ansbert Joaquin
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—An official of the Ocean Adventure here said calls of environmentalists to close the marine park would mean "certain death" for marine animals left under the facility's care.

"Closing Ocean Adventure will not only sentence the marine mammals there to certain death but will deprive hundreds of thousands of Filipinos of the opportunity to truly appreciate the value of marine mammals as partners of humanity in the enormous task of saving our oceans," Gregorio Magdaraog, vice president for corporate affairs of the Ocean Adventure, said in a statement.

Earlier, the Earth Island Institute-Philippines and the Philippine Animal Welfare Society sought the closure of the marine park and called for help from environment and health officials to save the two remaining false killer whales (*Pseudorca crassidens*) in captivity at the marine park in Subic Bay. The whales, and some sea lions, are being used for amusement shows in the park.

The groups issued the call following the death of a female false killer whale in the park on July 8.

The Ocean Adventure is being operated by the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium (SBME), an investor inside this freeport.

Magdaraog said the death of the whale, named "Hook," was "indeed a sad occasion."

"(But) it is ironic that the two organizations that proclaim their love and care for animals now want to close down a world-class facility that provides one of the best animal care services for animals, especially cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) and other marine mammals," he said.

"With what, and how are they [going] to save two whales that are living quite well in the loving care of animal care experts?" Magdaraog asked. "What whales have they saved already?"

Hook, the environmentalists said, was the third whale to die in captivity at the Ocean Adventure Park since it opened in 2001.

Coral (11 years old) died in January last year while Deuce (9 years old) died in July 2001. The whales died of gastrointestinal illnesses.

EII coordinator Trixie Concepcion said in the wild, false killer whales live up to 62 years "but confinement in Ocean Adventure will make sure that none of these animals will live to reach maturity."

But Magdaraog said their facility did its part in saving Hook.

He said Hook got her name because when she was rescued from the wild, a large fishing hook was lodged in her body. Personnel from the Ocean Adventure, Magdaraog said, surgically removed the metal and saved Hook from death.

Indigenous names now recognized by gov't

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Tribal communities in the Cordillera may not be aware of it, but they can now have their children baptized with indigenous names without worrying about future legal complications, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples said.

In fact, even marriages performed in accordance with customary laws or those dissolved by elders can now be officially registered, the NCIP said.

Lawyer Leilene Marie Gallardo, NCIP director for the Cordillera, said many tribes in the region have yet to avail themselves of the provisions of Administrative Order No. 3 issued by the office of the civil registrar general on May 14 last year.

The order, Gallardo said, embodies the rules governing acts and events affecting the civil status of indigenous peoples. It is the government's way of further respecting the cultural practices of tribal Filipinos, including native Cordillerans, she said.

She said it is a common practice among Cordillerans to have their so-called Igorot names, aside from their Christian names.

"There are those who only have one name and there are also those who adopt the first name of their father as their family name," she said. "Sometimes, this causes confusion..."

Gallardo said some are even forced to spend money to go to court to have their names corrected because of inconsistencies or wrong entries on their birth certificates.

These problems are solved by AO No. 3, Gallardo said, since tribal names can now be registered with the local civil registry.

Under the order, the following names are allowed for registration: a) one name, indigenous name or tribal name which is [the] first name with no middle name and surname; b) first name, middle name and last name not following filial relationships; c) first name, middle name and last name according to filial relationships; and d) other names given in accordance with customary laws.

Computer firm to sue Batangas gov for software theft

BATANGAS CITY—The owner of a computer company who accused Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez of stealing software from his firm to be used by a newly formed computer firm the governor owns said he would sue the firm and the governor.

Manny Tabunda, chief executive officer of the Amellar Solutions Inc., said he was suing the governor for using his firm's software for the Automatic Data Processing Techonology (ADPT), a firm that cornered a P350-million project at the Batangas provincial government and which is allegedly owned by Sanchez himself.

"We have also filed copyright infringement and unfair competition cases against him (Sanchez)," Tabunda said.

"It seems the ADPT had already cornered the project even before it was formed, which confirms my earlier suspicion," said Tabunda.

"A company that wasn't even formed yet could not develop that kind of software that it was intending to sell to the province. Practically, all employees of ADPT were former Amellar employees, including the drivers," Tabunda said.

According to Tabunda, Amellar's former business development officer Teresita de Mesa, who was handling the province's account, is now ADPT's chief executive officer.

"We were caught by surprise last January, when we were suddenly flooded with resignations, and disappearances and absences without leave, only to find out that they had joined ADPT, a company supposedly organized by Governor Sanchez and De Mesa," Tabunda said.

He said his lawyers had prepared the criminal cases to be filed against Sanchez and company.

"This is independent from the case filed against Sanchez in the Ombudsman. Whoever did that has done a great service to the people of Batangas," Tabunda said.

In an interview with Sanchez on July 4, he admitted that Geraldine Enriquez, one of the incorporators of ADPT, is his niece, the daughter of his sister.

But Sanchez said his niece was not with ADPT anymore.

Under the Local Government Code, relatives of government officials are prohibited from engaging in government projects with relatives up to fourth degree of consanguinity. *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Group opposes Visayan Sea fishing ban

BACOLOD CITY—Fishing groups are opposing the proposed five-year ban on commercial fishing in the Visayan Sea to allow the regeneration of marine life there.

In a position paper sent to Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Maranon, the Alliance of Philippine Fishing Federations Inc. (APFFI) asked that its stand be considered as it maintained that the area was not overfished.

Through its president, Alonso Tan, the group said it was the *tangab* fishing method that blocked the migratory path of many fish species from traveling to the Visayan Sea from the Sulu Sea to mature.

Tangab is a stationary fishing method that uses mosquito nets to catch *alamang*.

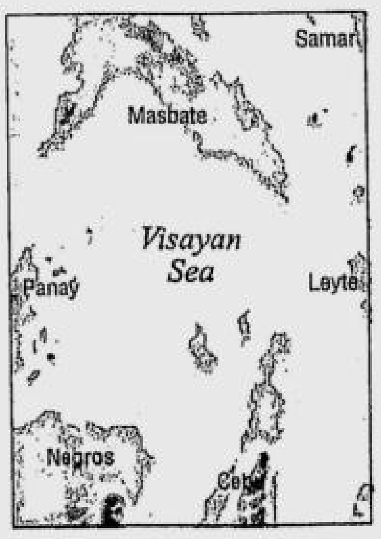
But the *tangab*, the group said, should be stopped because it does not just catch *alamang* but also the fry of many fish species.

Maranon said the proposed ban was still subject to scientific study and technical evaluation by the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

It would also undergo public consultations during which the APFFI could ventilate its concerns, he added.

The Visayan Sea, an area of about a million hectares, is the heart of the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Triangle bounded by the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. It is considered the richest marine eco-region in the world.

The body of water covers the provinces of Iloilo, Cebu and Negros Occidental in the Visayas, and Masbate. It was once so rich that it was dubbed the "Alaska of the Philippines" because it contained an array of fish and corals, more than that of the entire Caribbean Sea.



But destructive fishing methods, like blast and cyanide fishing, and over-fishing have taken their toll on the Visayan Sea, depleting 95 percent of marine life and 99 percent of corals.

Maranon said the call for a temporary ban might be a radical proposal that could bring short-term setbacks, particularly on the part of commercial fishing operators.

But such a call, he added, was envisioned to ensure food security and sustainability of resources in the long run.

"It is a precautionary approach, which will entail short-term sacrifices for long-term gains," the governor said.

He cited statistics that pointed to a decreasing volume of marine catch in the Visayan Sea, which could be directly linked to overfishing and destruction of fish habitats. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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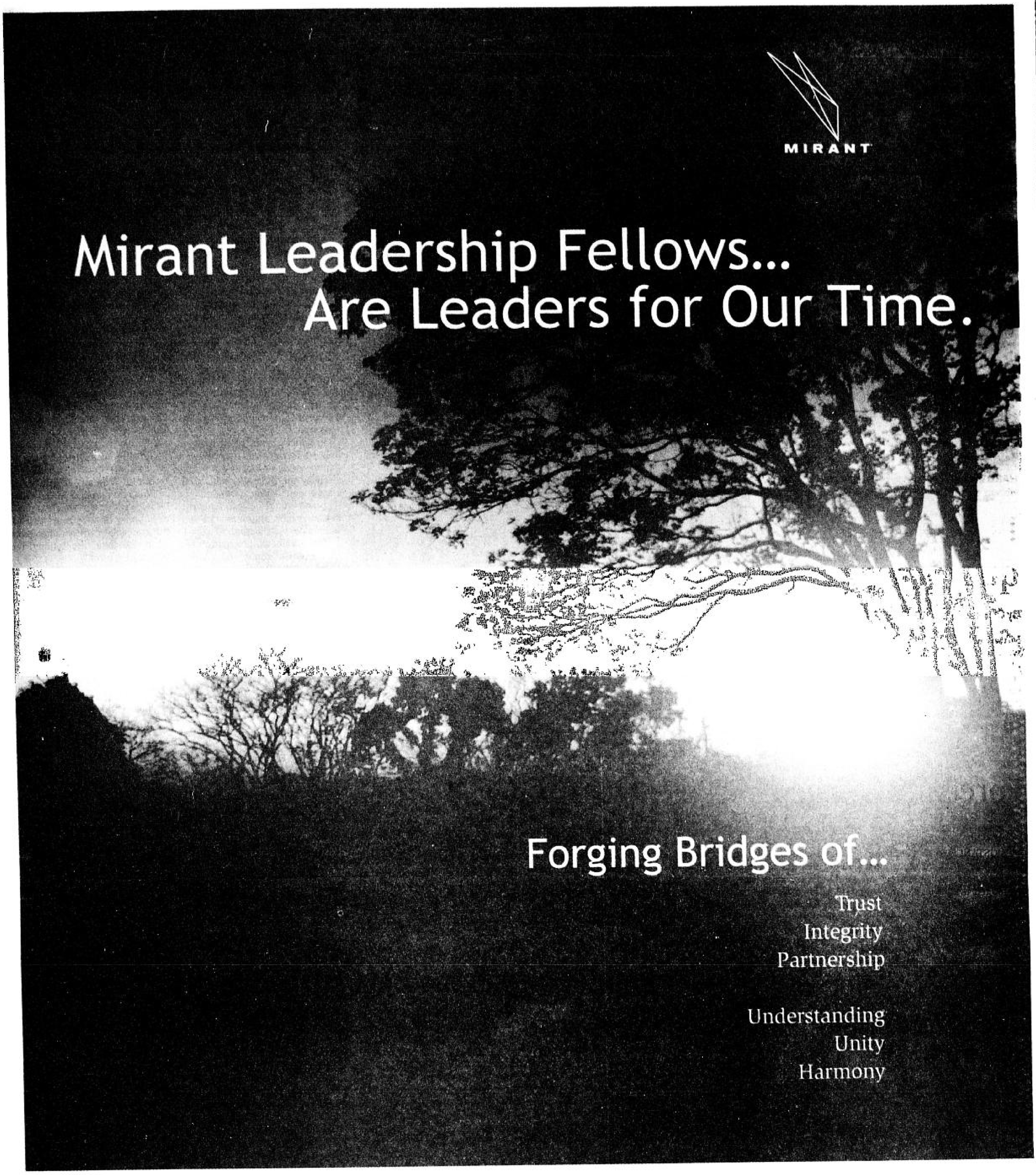

The Mirant Leadership Fellows program by the AIM-Mirant Center for Bridging Societal Divides actively seeks leaders in civil society, public service, or the private sector with five to ten years of significant accomplishment in development in rural or urban areas, in democratization and peace building, in poverty alleviation, or in sector-specific development work. Ten fellowships, at most, will be granted each year through a highly selective nomination and screening process.

Nominees are evaluated according to their demonstrated leadership record, the potential impact that the program may have in improving their ability to resolve societal divides, the breadth of their perspective and enthusiasm for continued learning, and their prospective contribution to the network of bridging leadership practitioners.

Prospective fellows must clearly define their leadership goals and articulate the impact of these goals on the resolution of the societal divides they are addressing. Chosen fellows possess high levels of integrity, dynamism, and resolve to make a difference in the divided communities they are bridging. Mirant Leadership Fellows are Leaders for Our Time.

Now, 6 months since its conception, the AIM-Mirant Center for Bridging Societal Divides is ready to present its first batch of Mirant Leadership Fellows.

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FOR BRIDGING SOCIETAL DIVIDES

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HARD at work, Makati students paint city sidewalks with all colors of the rainbow, producing vibrant environment-inspired paintings. RODEL ROTONI

Art beneath your feet

By Tarra V. Quismundo

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MRT-3 finances are also taking a beating. MRT-3 General Manager Roberto Lastimoso said that last Friday alone, the railway agency lost about P200,000.

Foreigner nabbed for illegal drugs

By Margaux C. Ortiz

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The agents also found 107.2 g of alleged marijuana from Amanullah's bedroom and P1 million worth of assorted medicines, including ointments and inhalers.

Amanullah denied the NBI's accusations, saying he was tortured and framed by the agents.

Tiangco named PMP spokesperson

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Estrada, president of the PMP party, signed Tiangco's appointment last July 5, according to a statement sent to the INQUIRER.

Tiangco, 37, a known ally of the former president, is now on his second term as chief executive of the municipality.

"The mayor is authorized to perform all duties and exercise all authorities appurtenant to the appointment," Estrada said.

One of Tiangco's duties is to coordinate with the national spokesperson, former Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, and the national directorate of the party.

But according to another opposition leader, Tiangco's new assignment as party spokesperson was meant to reinvent the image of the PMP.

"We want to let the people know that we also have dynamic and young leaders in the PMP, apart from the Estrada brothers," the opposition leader said.

The opposition leader was referring to Estrada sons Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito.

"I don't really know why I was chosen. All I know is I have to coordinate with former congressman Dilangalen, " Tiangco said in a phone interview.

In his statement, he said that he considered the appointment an honor. "I feel that in these politically critical times, it is crucial that the public is made aware of where the PMP stands," he said.

Tiangco also clarified that he is the spokesperson of the PMP, not the United Opposition or UNO. He said he would be getting his instructions directly from the former president, and from the directorate of the party, including Dilangalen.

The mayor said he hopes his assignment would strengthen the PMP, and that he would be able to convey the party's sentiments effectively, particularly to its members on the ground.

"We are now in the process of conducting media forums and information dissemination. The party needs all the help it can get to attain these objectives," Tiangco added.

Marine victim of foul play?

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WAS IT suicide or murder?

This is the question the Taguig City police are trying to answer in connection with the death of a Marine officer inside the barracks of Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, before noon on Sunday.

Apart from the lack of evidence pointing to a suicide, Philippine Marines Master Sgt. Rodolfo Adonis, 42, sustained two gunshot wounds, raising suspicions of foul play, SPO3 Eduardo Cabria said yesterday in a phone interview.

Technical Sgt. Edwin Arevalo and a civilian employee, Reynaldo Suan, were inside the U-11 Marine Battalion Barracks when they heard gunfire at 11:15 a.m. Sunday, Cabria said.

Adonis was also assigned to the same barrack, the policeman added.

"When they went inside, they found Adonis sprawled on the floor beside his bunk," he said.

Cabria said Adonis' commander alleged the Marine committed suicide. But the policeman said there was no suicide note.

The victim did not show signs of depression or problems, according to his friends.

"It was impossible for him to shoot himself twice in the same spot using a .45-cal. pistol," Cabria said.

He added that if Adonis fired twice, the second shot would have hit a different part of his body.

"But usually, when one shoots himself with that kind of gun, he can no longer fire another shot," the policeman said.

Adonis, who was scheduled to retire this year, was brought to the Manila Naval Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival at 12:15 p.m.

How GMA can win back people's trust

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has lost a quiet but very efficient Cabinet member in the person of Silvestre Afable Jr.

Afable resigned as chief of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) without any fanfare even before the "Hyatt 10" officials went out with a bang.

I've known Yoyong Afable since he was one of the technical assistants of then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile. It is in his character to work hard unobtrusively and therefore, quit quietly.

The rumor mills in the snake pit that is Malacañang say Afable resigned because he was upset by the bombastic but "unsolicited" presentation of a communications plan by Marita Jimenez.

Jimenez, GMA's classmate at the Assumption College, was a member of the President's "kitchen" Cabinet and is now an officer at the Asian Development Bank.

Jimenez's plan was to transform GMA's image from that of a stern taskmaster to that of a smiling and affable Chief Executive.

Because of her closeness to the President, Jimenez became bossy. She ordered all Cabinet members to talk to the media about the President's wiretapped conversation with an election official.

Jimenez wanted strict compliance with her communications plan, without consulting Afable. This irked the self-effacing Afable because the President's longtime chum was infringing on his turf.

If the President wants the other members of her official family to remain loyal to her, she should ban Jimenez from Malacañang. Anyway, she no longer holds office at the Palace.

* * *

Jimenez's plan to transform GMA's image from that of a stern taskmaster that of a smiling and approachable leader is stupid, to put it mildly.

Her makeover strategy for her longtime friend should have been discussed between her and the President in private. It was like applying makeup on a woman after waking up in the morning; it should be done in the privacy of the bedroom.

Even if it were to be carried out (the President reportedly rejected the idea), GMA would look insincere. For how could one force a person to smile when he or she doesn't feel like it?

The best way for the President to win back the people's trust and confidence is not through her being chummy-chummy with the masses, but through projects that would directly benefit the majority of the population.

One such project would be to bring down the cost of medicines. The prices of medicines are so prohibitive that the middle class and the poor can't afford to buy them.

Yes, Ma'am, it's possible to bring down the cost of medicines by 50 percent, even 75 percent of their price in drugstore counters. A cartel of multinational pharmaceutical drug companies, allegedly in cahoots with a drugstore chain, has jacked up the prices of medicines.

How does the government bring down the prices of basic medicines, like those for asthma, tuberculosis, hypertension, diabetes and infections?

Simple. Allow small pharmaceutical firms to import raw materials from India and other countries where medicines are cheap. Give these companies access to loans from banks like the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The reason many poor patients are dying in many parts of the country is that they can't afford to buy basic medicines prescribed to them by doctors.

Government should flood its hospitals with basic medicines so poor patients can be given these lifesaving drugs.

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"I don't really know why I was chosen. All I know is I have to coordinate with former congressman Dilangalen, " Tiangco said in a phone interview.

In his statement, he said that he considered the appointment an honor. "I feel that in these politically critical times, it is crucial that the public is made aware of where the PMP stands," he said.

Tiangco also clarified that he is the spokesperson of the PMP, not the United Opposition or UNO. He said he would be getting his instructions directly from the former president, and from the directorate of the party, including Dilangalen.

The mayor said he hopes his assignment would strengthen the PMP, and that he would be able to convey the party's sentiments effectively, particularly to its members on the ground.

"We are now in the process of conducting media forums and information dissemination. The party needs all the help it can get to attain these objectives," Tiangco added.

Marine victim of foul play?

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WAS IT suicide or murder?

This is the question the Taguig City police are trying to answer in connection with the death of a Marine officer inside the barracks of Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, before noon on Sunday.

Apart from the lack of evidence pointing to a suicide, Philippine Marines Master Sgt. Rodolfo Adonis, 42, sustained two gunshot wounds, raising suspicions of foul play, SPO3 Eduardo Cabria said yesterday in a phone interview.

Technical Sgt. Edwin Arevalo and a civilian employee, Reynaldo Suan, were inside the U-11 Marine Battalion Barracks when they heard gunfire at 11:15 a.m. Sunday, Cabria said.

Adonis was also assigned to the same barrack, the policeman added.

"When they went inside, they found Adonis sprawled on the floor beside his bunk," he said.

Cabria said Adonis' commander alleged the Marine committed suicide. But the policeman said there was no suicide note.

The victim did not show signs of depression or problems, according to his friends.

"It was impossible for him to shoot himself twice in the same spot using a .45-cal. pistol," Cabria said.

He added that if Adonis fired twice, the second shot would have hit a different part of his body.

"But usually, when one shoots himself with that kind of gun, he can no longer fire another shot," the policeman said.

Adonis, who was scheduled to retire this year, was brought to the Manila Naval Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival at 12:15 p.m.

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How GMA can win back people's trust

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has lost a quiet but very efficient Cabinet member in the person of Silvestre Afable Jr.

Afable resigned as chief of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) without any fanfare even before the "Hyatt 10" officials went out with a bang.

I've known Yoyong Afable since he was one of the technical assistants of then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile. It is in his character to work hard unobtrusively and therefore, quit quietly.

The rumor mills in the snake pit that is Malacañang say Afable resigned because he was upset by the bombastic but "unsolicited" presentation of a communications plan by Marita Jimenez.

Jimenez, GMA's classmate at the Assumption College, was a member of the President's "kitchen" Cabinet and is now an officer at the Asian Development Bank.

Jimenez's plan was to transform GMA's image from that of a stern taskmaster to that of a smiling and affable Chief Executive.

Because of her closeness to the President, Jimenez became bossy. She ordered all Cabinet members to talk to the media about the President's wiretapped conversation with an election official.

Jimenez wanted strict compliance with her communications plan, without consulting Afable. This irked the self-effacing Afable because the President's longtime chum was infringing on his turf.

If the President wants the other members of her official family to remain loyal to her, she should ban Jimenez from Malacañang. Anyway, she no longer holds office at the Palace.

* * *

Jimenez's plan to transform GMA's image from that of a stern taskmaster that of a smiling and approachable leader is stupid, to put it mildly.

Her makeover strategy for her longtime friend should have been discussed between her and the President in private. It was like applying makeup on a woman after waking up in the morning; it should be done in the privacy of the bedroom.

Even if it were to be carried out (the President reportedly rejected the idea), GMA would look insincere. For how could one force a person to smile when he or she doesn't feel like it?

The best way for the President to win back the people's trust and confidence is not through her being chummy-chummy with the masses, but through projects that would directly benefit the majority of the population.

One such project would be to bring down the cost of medicines. The prices of medicines are so prohibitive that the middle class and the poor can't afford to buy them.

Yes, Ma'am, it's possible to bring down the cost of medicines by 50 percent, even 75 percent of their price in drugstore counters. A cartel of multinational pharmaceutical drug companies, allegedly in cahoots with a drugstore chain, has jacked up the prices of medicines.

How does the government bring down the prices of basic medicines, like those for asthma, tuberculosis, hypertension, diabetes and infections?

Simple. Allow small pharmaceutical firms to import raw materials from India and other countries where medicines are cheap. Give these companies access to loans from banks like the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The reason many poor patients are dying in many parts of the country is that they can't afford to buy basic medicines prescribed to them by doctors.

Government should flood its hospitals with basic medicines so poor patients can be given these lifesaving drugs.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

San Juan left out in the cold

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE CHAIR of the administration party Lakas-National Union of Christian Democrats (NUCD) in San Juan town has reason to blow his top.

On Sunday, several of his supporters came to him complaining that some of them were shortchanged of the cash due them for attending the pro-administration rally at the Luneta Park on Saturday. Worse, they appeared to be asking him to pay the balance of the money they were promised.

"They told me they were promised P300, but they didn't get it. Not all got the amount. Some were given only P100 and P150," said Erick San Juan, chair of the Lakas-NUCD in San Juan. "It was terrible."

Some were told they would get P500, and got only half of it, he added.

"*Hakot talaga* (They were really bussed to Luneta)," he told the INQUIRER. "They also seemed to have the idea that I was supposed to give them the balance."

But what angered him was that he was not even at the rally site. "I wasn't invited," he said.

San Juan ran under Lakas but lost to Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito in 2004.

San Juan quoted one of those who went to the rally as saying it was a consultant of House Speaker Jose de Venecia who organized the "*hakot* crowd."

"I don't know why he would not tell me," he said, referring to the consultant. "I don't think it's the money. He's rich."

According to San Juan, the "protesters" from his town had brought a huge banner with the words "Lakas-NUCD San Juan" to the Luneta.

'No advice'

"I'm the Lakas chair in town and they did not even tell me about it. I learned that my party mates were there when one of my men texted me. He was looking for me and thought I knew about our participation in the rally all along," he said.

"All I want is respect," he said, arguing that, after all, he still receives regular letters from the Lakas. In fact, the local Commission on Elections had invited him to attend a meeting as the representative of the administration party in town. None of the Lakas candidates who ran under him were also invited to the rally, he claimed.

San Juan said around 60 people from at least two barangays in his town, an Estrada bailiwick, were ferried to Manila. He said a barangay chair in Manila had told him that each "team leader" was paid P5,000 to produce warm bodies from his area to be bussed to Luneta.

He wouldn't have minded and would even have supported a party call to bring supporters to Luneta. He, too, wanted his town mates to "earn something," he said.

A radio commentator and book author, San Juan spent his savings to run against Estrada last year. Told that he was courting the ire of his party mates by coming out with his allegations in public, he said: "I don't mind if they get angry. I'm just telling the truth."

Robbers terrorize bus passengers

By DJ Yap

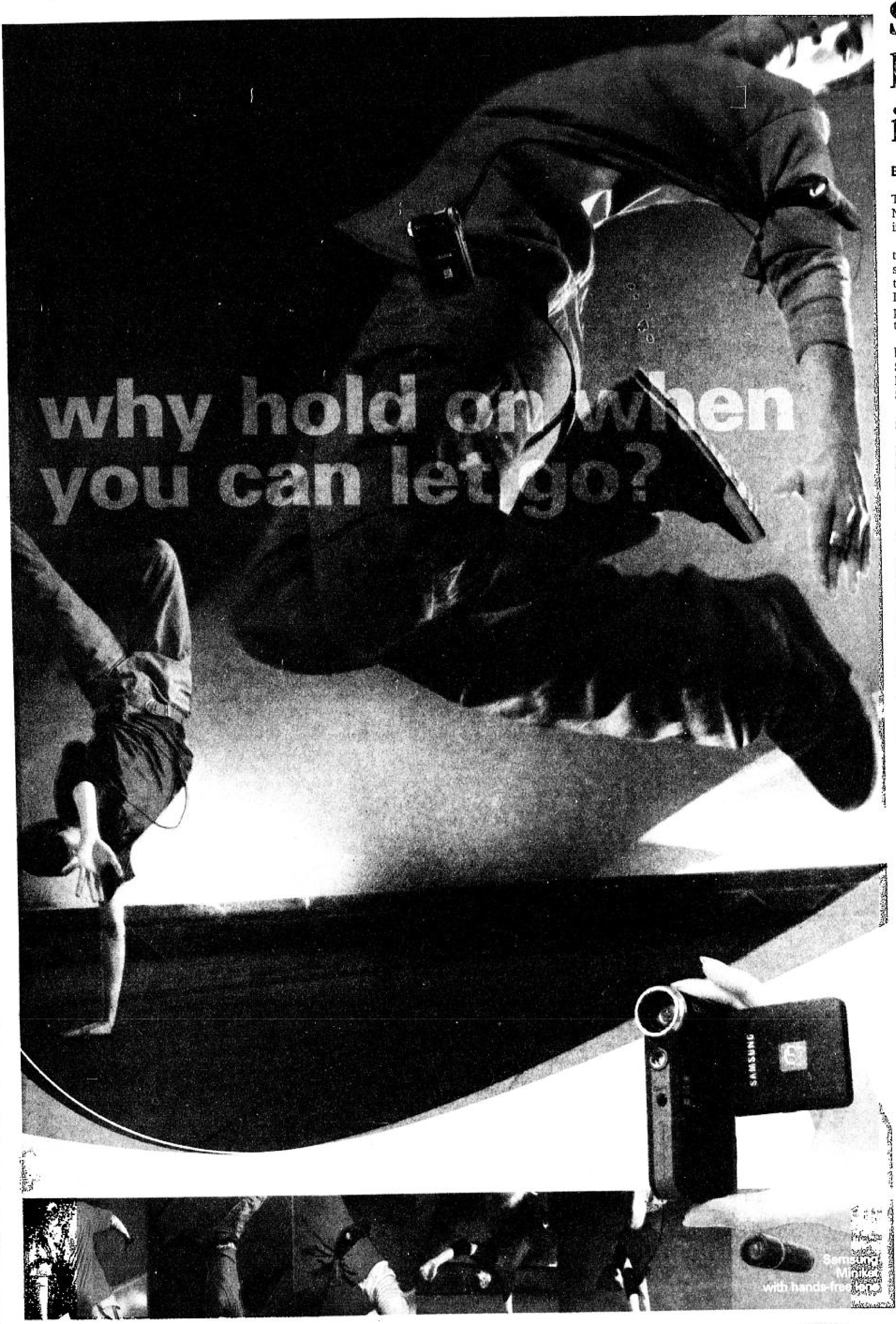
A HIGHWAY robbery along the North Luzon Expressway on Sunday left bus passengers terror-stricken when grenade-wielding men threatened to blow up the bus.

For an hour, some 40 passengers of a Bataan Transit bus watched in silence as six men, brandishing handguns and grenades, took their belongings. The passengers were told that a grenade would be set off if they resisted.

The robbers posed as passengers on the Pasay City-bound bus and declared a hold-up at about 12:30 p.m. just before reaching the San Fernando Exit tollgate.

They apparently knew that one of the passengers, Rommel Arriola, was a policeman in civilian clothes, and aimed their guns at him as they took his firearm, badge and bag.

Three of the suspects got off later at Balintawak, Quezon City, while the rest alighted at the Muñoz market.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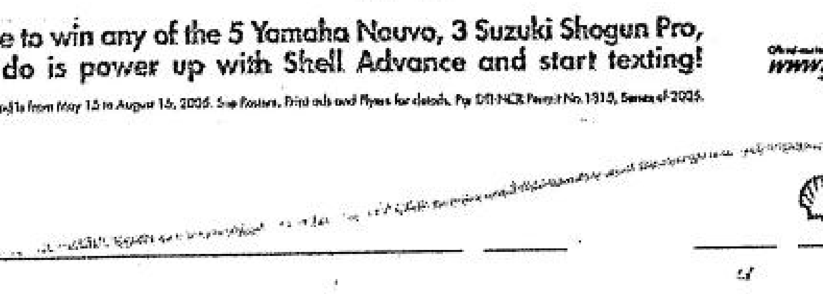

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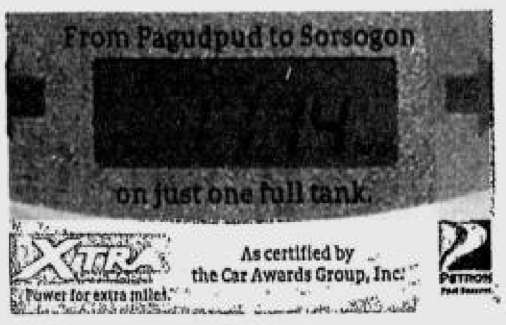
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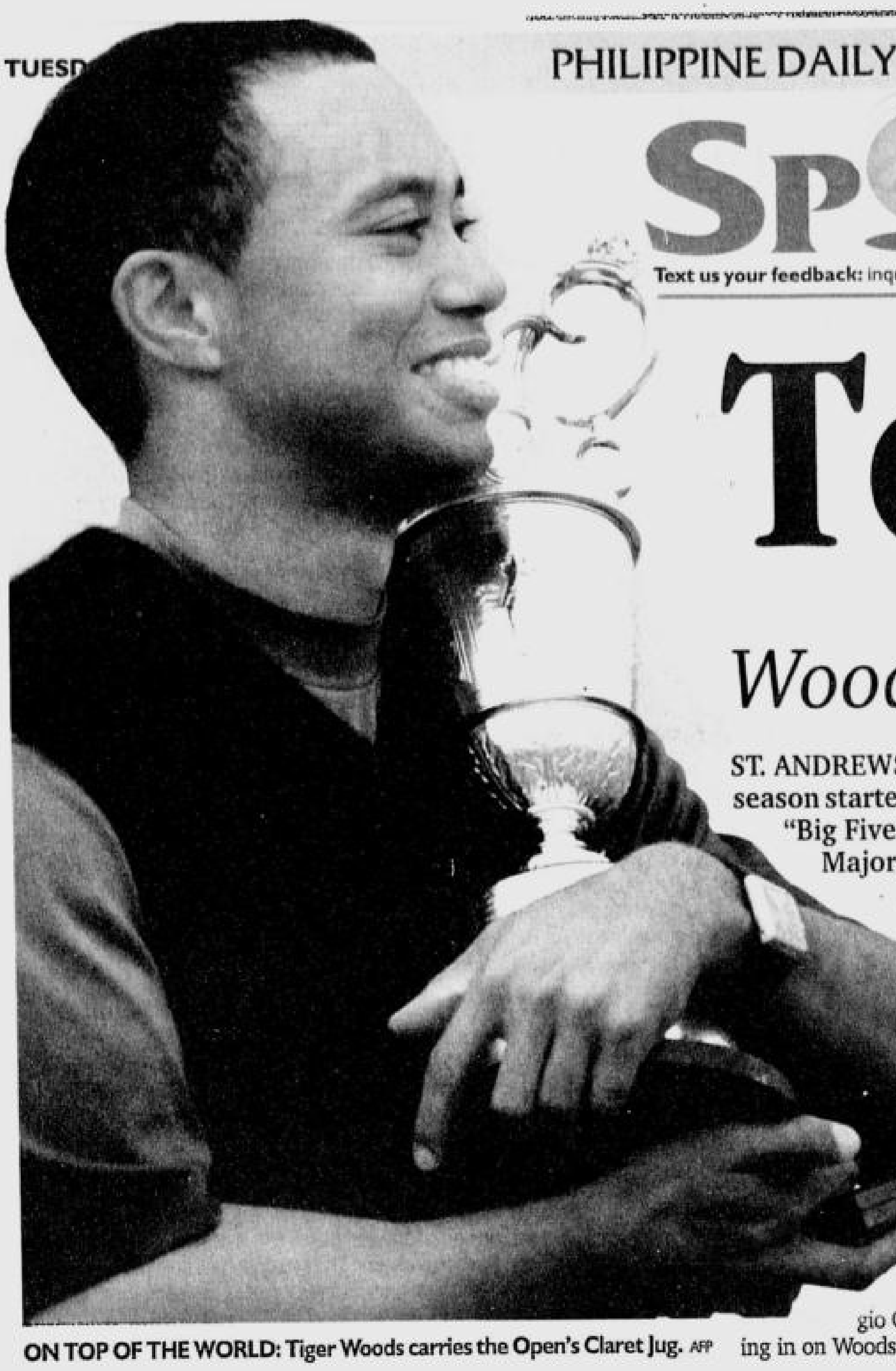
Ten for Tiger

Woods takes 2nd British Open by 5 shots



ON TOP OF THE WORLD: Tiger Woods carries the Open's Claret Jug. AFP

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland—The 2005 season started with dreams of golf's "Big Five" fighting it out for the Majors.

After three of them, reality has been restored. It's back to the "Big One" and the rest are reduced to scrambling for the crumbs.

Tiger Woods won the Masters, could not putt to save his life but still came second in the US Open, and won the 134th British Open with a stunning display of controlled golf.

World No. 2 Vijay Singh, Retief Goosen and Sergio Garcia all had a chance of moving in on Woods during the last round over the Old Course on Sunday.

Ernie Els was already out of contention.

They didn't even come close. The 29-year-old Woods simply moved up a gear to play a form of golf that even impressed him.

Woods romped to victory by five shots with a closing 70 at the 134th British Open on Sunday to clinch the 10th major title of his career.

He never trailed over the final 63 holes at St. Andrews and turned in the first wire-to-wire victory at the Open in 32 years.

The world No. 1, champion at St. Andrews in 2000, hardly put a foot wrong as he became only the second player after Jack Nicklaus to win each of the grand slam events at least twice.

Back to his very best form, the 29-year-old American overcame the breezy conditions on the Old Course to finish at 14-under 274.

He now stands third in the all-time listings for major winners, behind fellow Americans Nicklaus (18) and Walter Hagen (11).

"It's a dream come true to win at the home of golf," said a jubilant Woods.

"All the hard hours I've put in... this is one of the reasons I've made the changes, so I could be back here again at this level," added Woods, who spent much of last year revamping his swing for the second time since turning professional in 1996.

Leader from day one after opening with a 66, Woods was never headed during the week although his advantage was briefly cut to one on the last day when he bogeyed the par-four 10th.

WOODS/ A22

MOVING CLOSER TO NICKLAUS' BENCHMARK

	JACK NICKLAUS (18 titles)	TIGER WOODS (10 titles)
Masters	(6)—1963, 1965-66, 1972, 1975, 1986	(4)—1997, 2001, 2002, 2005
US Open	(4)—1962, 1967, 1972, 1980	(2)—2000, 2002
British Open	(3)—1966, 1970, 1978	(2)—2000, 2005
PGA Championship	(5)—1963, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1980	(2)—1999-00
Career Grand Slam Age	26	24

Court nixes cage body's TRO plea

By Musong R. Castillo

THE MANILA Regional Trial Court yesterday denied the Basketball Association of the Philippines' request for a temporary restraining order (TRO) on the impending eviction of the expelled cage body from the premises of the Philippine Sports Commission.

Judge Reynaldo G. Ros of the Manila RTC's Branch 35 rejected the BAP's request for lack of merit. He set the hearing on the BAP's application for preliminary injunction for Friday at 2 p.m.

This means that the PSC can now proceed to banish the BAP from its old offices at the government-owned complex on Vito Cruz.

The Philippine Olympic Committee on June 30 expelled the cage body from its ranks for failing to adhere to a covenant forged among local basketball's major stakeholders.

The development confirmed an INQUIRER report on Sunday when PSC executive director Guillermo Iroy said that the BAP's court request had no legal leg to stand on.

Meanwhile, presidential daughter Luli Macapagal-Arroyo will meet with more than 500 athletes at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium today as part of a program to boost the spirits of the athletes for the coming Manila Southeast Asian Games.

Luli will be coming in place of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who had been invited by PSC Chair Butch Ramirez, due to pressing commitments.

Also absent from the proceedings will be First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, the prime mover of the FG Sports Foundation which is spearheading a huge training program for the athletes.

Mr. Arroyo is currently overseas.

National swimmers, weightlifters, divers and gymnasts will also not be around. Players in these events are still in different southern provinces in China.

RP cagers bow to towering Passing Lane in Global tilt

THE PHILIPPINES' last-ditch rallies went for naught as it yielded to Passing Lane, 80-71, in the first Global Hoops Summit at the Cox Pavilion on the UNLV Campus in Las Vegas on Sunday (Monday in Manila).

Scoring only five points in the first period, the Filipinos trailed by as many as 19 points, 49-30, but rallied behind Ren-Ren Ritualo going to the last five minutes.

Ritualo, shaking off former Washington Wizard guard God Shammgod, knocked in 16 points in the fourth period en route to a game-high seven triples and 27 points.

Passing Lane, leaning on power plays by 7-footer Brian Sigafoos of Harvard and 6-11 Cedric Suitt of Pepperdine, erected that 19-point bubble early in the third quarter.

The scores:

PASSING LANE 80—Bradford 22, Okosa 11, Suitt 10, Shammgod 8, Glover 8, Johnson 7, Sigafoos 5, Walker 3, Ming 2, Boylan 2, Goldman 2.

RP 71—Ritualo 27, Hontiveros 12, Adducul 6, Raymundo 6, Cortez 5, Helterbrand 5, Williams 5, Allado 3, De la Cruz 2, Yap 0, Alvarez 0, Mamaril 0, Thoss 0.

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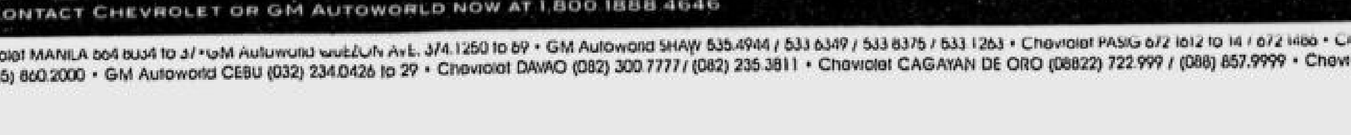

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Archers still in great shape, assures coach Pumaren

By Jasmine W. Payo

LA SALLE coach Franz Pumaren offered assurances, rather than excuses, after the defending champions lost back-to-back to unheralded teams last week in the UAAP basketball tournament.

"We're still in great shape," said Pumaren. "There's nothing to worry about. There's the maturity of the team, and our confidence level is still there."

Although Pumaren acknowledged the Archers' horrendous shooting performance, he noted that the Archers dropped their matches in narrow margins.

"Remember, our two games were very close," Pumaren pointed out. "It was the breaks of the game."

The Archers fell by five points against the University of the Philippines Maroons, 61-56, and by the slimmest of margins against his younger brother Dindo's University of the East Warriors, 57-56.

"We just have to overcome this right now," said Pumaren. "It's a minor bump. After this, we have to start adjusting. It's a test of our character."

The Archers scored at will in the season opener—a 78-60 hammering of rival Ateneo Eagles. The dominating performance, though, seemingly zapped their energies as the Archers shot poorly in their next two games—27.8 percent against the Maroons and 29.1 percent versus the Warriors.

Joseph Yeo, La Salle's top scoring option, typified the team's struggles when he went 2-of-14 on the floor against the Maroons.

"He's doing extra shooting," said Pumaren of his team captain. "There's that point in your career when you struggle. He has to accept that challenge."

Pumaren expects all the other squads to go for another stunner over the Archers.

"Every time other teams play against us, since we're the defending champions, they bring out their A-games," noted Pumaren.

"So I've been stressing that we have to start really competitive. It has to be a collective effort. The bottom line, we have to rise above this challenge."

Stags survive ejection of Turo, chief gunner

By Jasmine W. Payo

SAN SEBASTIAN weathered the ejection of coach Turo Valenzona and main man Leo Najorda to repel University of Perpetual Help, 76-75, in overtime yesterday in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Najorda was slapped a disqualifying foul for a wayward elbow, while Valenzona was thrown out for excessive complaining with 5:50 left in the third period and with the Stags playing catch-up to the fast-starting Altas.

But the duo's ejection only fueled a fire in the Stags as they came charging back from 19 points down to notch their third win in a row.

The Stags worked behind Red Vicente during the furious rally and leaned on the senior swingman's seven points in the extra period, including the game-clinching three-point play in the final 27.8 seconds.

Vicente, who came away with a game-high 25 points, capped his heroics by foiling Perpetual's final play with a steal off Vladimir Joe.

"There was pressure when we lost coach (Valenzona)," said assistant mentor Bernie Mercado. "But we pushed our players to hold on and play as a team."

Earlier, Alex Angeles and Jerome Paterno combined for 44 points as the San Beda Lions whipped the hapless Jose Rizal U Bombers, 71-44, for their first win in six outings.

The Stags trailed at 29-48 before Vicente sparked his team's offense to slice the lead at 39-50.

Francis de Leon, who scored all of his seven points in the fourth quarter, keyed a 12-0 run as the Stags moved within four, 51-55.

Turning to their second stringers, the Stags kept their momentum and a Vicente triple finally gave them a 62-59 edge.

The Stags seemed headed for the win, 66-63, when Perpetual's Rommel Balboa nailed a triple at the buzzer to force the extra period.

The scores:

Second Game (Srs)

SAN BEDA 71—Angeles 23, Patemo 21, Taganas 8, Aljamal 5, Gamalinda 4, Cruz 3, Tecson 3, Timonera 2, Arbole 2, Tirona 0, Antonio 0.

JRU 44—Domancas 16, Golena 10, Sena 6, Fenequito 6, Yuzon 5, Jorge 1, Maniego 0, Dedicatoria 0, Tala 0, Reyes 0, Natividad 0.

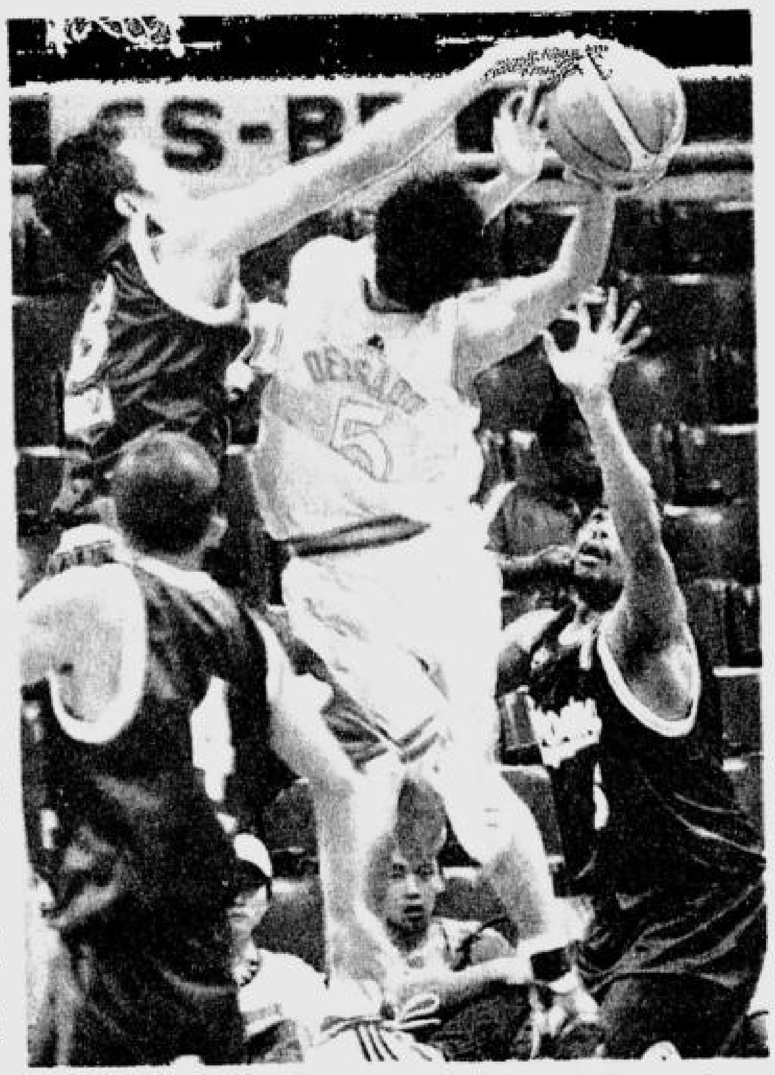
Quarters: 22-6, 40-14, 52-25, 71-44

Fourth Game (Srs)

SSC 76—Vicente 25, Viray 9, De Leon 7, Najorda 6, Aguilar 6, Delgado 5, Santos 3, Quiamco 2, Ballesteros 0, Juan 0.

PERPETUAL 75—Balboa 19, Misa 17, Bauzon 12, Joe 10, Refuerzo 8, Apor 8, Mendoza 1, Salanga 0, Racho 0, Reyes 0.

Quarters: 11-19, 27-36, 44-55, 66-66, 76-75 (OT).



DALE Mendoza (left) of the University of Perpetual Help Altas smothers a drive by Franz Ian Delgado (5) of the San Sebastian Stags. RYAN LIM

SPORTSWATCH

Santos sets new RP pole vault record

MIKA Santos of Ateneo set a new Philippine record in winning the pole vault gold medal in the Hong Kong Inter-city Athletics Challenge recently. Santos' 3.20-meter vault smashed the old RP mark of 3.10 held by national team mainstay Maristela Torres. Santos and teammate Stephanie Javellana were seeded fourth and sixth in the tournament but surprised the field with their superb performances. Their participation was made possible through Ateneo's Office of the University President, the Ateneo de Manila University Athletics Office and the Ateneo and Track and Field Alumni. Javellana settled for fourth place in the event where three contenders from Hong Kong, another from China's An Hui Track and Field team and two more from Chinese Taipei's Team A saw action.

Filipinos bow to Lebanese in Davis Cup

JOHNNY Arcilla dropped a 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-1 decision to Lebanese No. 2 Karim Alayli as the Philippines lost its Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Group II tie with Lebanon, 2-3, at the Golf Club of Lebanon clay courts in Beirut. Arcilla's defeat doused cold water on the Filipinos' hope of advancing to the next round after John Patrick Tierro pulled the Philippines on even terms Sunday with a come-from-behind 6-7 (5), 6-7 (8), 6-1, 6-4, 7-5 victory over Patrick Chucri in the first reverse singles. The Lebanese took a 2-1 edge after the pivotal doubles on Saturday when Chucri and Alayli outlasted the veteran tandem of Arcilla and Adelo Abadia, 2-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, in the tightly fought tie's second of three five-setters. The two countries split the first two singles on Friday with Chucri whipping Arcilla, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, and the 6-foot-1 Tierro overcoming Alayli, 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 6-1, 7-5.

RP booters power Kaya's title romp

KAYA, an all-Filipino team powered by several national players, whitewashed Union of Germany, 2-0, over the weekend to capture its second straight United Football Club Association (Ufca) championship in Parañaque City. Led by veterans Selu Lozano and Ali Borromeo, Kaya dominated the 10-team international tournament featuring European, American and Asian players by racking eight wins against one loss and a draw in the single round-robin elimination. Iranian team Pasargad nipped tournament darkhorse USA Football Club, 3-2, to finish third. USA FC, a blend of European and local players and backed by express and logistics company TNT International Express, earlier dropped a 2-0 decision to Kaya as leading scorer Anton del Rosario failed to connect. "USA FC is the toughest team in the tournament and we treated the semifinals like it was the championship already," said Kaya team manager Tomas Lozano.

Shell active chess moves to Tuguegarao

ACTION in the 2005 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships goes to the north next week with the staging of the series' third leg at the People's Gymnasium in Tuguegarao. About 500 students and out-of-school youths are expected to see action in the seven-round Swiss system tournament. Up for grabs in the two-day event slated July 23-24 are spots for the top three placers in both the juniors' (20-and-below) and kiddies' (14-under) divisions in the grand finals set Oct. 15-16 at SM North Edsa. Registration is ongoing and on a first-come, first-served basis. For inquiries, call area coordinator Mariano Cabugos at (078) 8442894. The Southern Luzon eliminations will be held in Batangas on Aug. 6-7. St. Benilde's Dino Ballecer and Gen. Licerio Geronimo High School's Narquinden Reyes topped the juniors' and kiddies' divisions, respectively, of the National Capital Region qualifying tournament recently. The other qualifiers are Omar Bagalacsa and Melvin Palomata (juniors) and Loren Brigham Laceste and Mari Joseph Turqueza (kiddies).

Team Nitro Autocross fires off July 30

TEAM Nitro Motorsports launches the 2005 Autocross Grand Prix Series with the first of three rounds on July 30 at the Water Garden parking lot of the Festival Supermall in Alabang. Round 1 is presented by Festival Supermall, Auto Extreme, Wheelers Club International, Symtec Engineering and Bridgestone and features the new Potenza G III, the sporty, speedy and stylist tires used in Formula One racing. Napa Batteries, Khaos, PLDT myDSL and Wheelers Club International will put up promotional tents while Aero Med Ambulance Transport has been tapped for first-aid emergency treatment and transportation. Drivers will compete in 14 classes in Newbie, Novice, Experienced, Pro and a new category, the College Autocross Racing or CAR. The CAR is open to college students, 18 years and above with a valid driver's license. Driver registration for all classes starts at 8 a.m. on July 30. The races begin promptly at 10 a.m. For inquiries, e-mail team_nitro_motorsports@yahoo.com or call or text 0917-8914559.

Woods takes British Open . . .

From page A21

after driving into a greenside pot bunker.

His playing partner Jose Maria Olazabal of Spain and Scot Colin Montgomerie had been his closest challengers but both fell away soon afterwards.

Twice US Masters champion Olazabal dropped shots on 12, 13, 15 and 17 but birdied the last on his way to a 74, while Montgomerie's challenge ended with bogeys on 11, 13 and 16.

Now, it's not a question any more of whether or not Woods will surpass Nicklaus, the only question remaining is when?.

"To get to 10 already this soon in my career, it's very exciting to hopefully look forward to 'some good years in my 30's and hopefully into my 40s," said Woods.

Woods is so far ahead of the rest in the world rankings it is almost frightening.

After Singh overtook him in the rankings at the end of last year, the victory re-establishes Woods (16.24) comfortably at the top of the pecking order, over four points clear of the Fijian (12.19) and nearly seven ahead of Els (9.36).

That is his biggest advantage since mid-March 2004 but he quashed suggestions that he lacks a top-class rival to keep his game and his competitive instinct finely honed.

The world's top golfers paid tribute to Woods.

"You're playing against the best player in the world and when he attacks the course he does it with great ball-striking," said compatriot Fred Couples after a final-round 68 and finishing tied for third place with Spain's Jose Maria Olazabal at 281, five behind the American.

"He's setting the bar so high, he's so strong and he's just a great player."

Olazabal had the best view of Woods as he partnered him in the final round.

"I don't think it's impossible to catch Tiger but it's close to impossible," said Olazabal.

The 42-year-old Scot returned a 72 to secure second place at nine under, his best Open finish in 16 starts but only his second top 10.

US Open winner Michael Campbell carded a 72 to finish in a seven-way share of fourth at seven under, level with world No. 2 Singh (72), Spaniard Sergio Garcia (73) and double US Open champion Retief Goosen (74). *AFP*

TRIATHLON newcomer Michelle McTavish gets ready for the bike leg. She finished second in the 20-29 category of the event held at the Clearwater Country Club in Clark.

Japanese expat, teener clinch triathlon honors

JAPANESE expatriate Hiroshi Takei and teenager Kilm Mangrobang shared overall honors in the 5th leg of the Speedo-National Age Group Triathlon series held at the Clearwater Country Club inside the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga last Sunday.

The 32-year-old Takei took line honors in the men's side with a time of 1:04.17 over the 750m swim-20K bike-5K run event. He also bagged the 30-34 age group title.

The 13-year-old Mangrobang of Dominican College in Laguna ruled the women's event, overtaking Angela Alon-alon in the second loop of the 5K run en route to a 1:21.41 clocking.

Takei, a former swimming coach in Dumaguete who now works in a Laguna-based logistics company, took the lead at the halfway mark of the final 5K run.

"I expected to win because I have been training hard in preparation for a half-Ironman distance in Subic in October," said Takei, who joined his first race this year.

"The big turnout of entries here shows that triathlon is getting more and more popular," said Triathlon Association of the Philippines head Tom Carrasco Jr., who graced the awarding rites together with race organizer Melvin Fausto, Clearwater GM Richard Hallewick and Speedo's Emy Buccat.

This year's edition was supported by PowerBar, Asian Centre for Insulation, Addict Mobile Prepaid, David's Salon and Spa and Stronghold Insurance.

No one lasts forever

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ALL things must pass. Even the good ones.

It's happened a lot of times. Max Schmeling. Rocky Marciano. Joe Louis. Floyd Patterson. Muhammad Ali. George Foreman. Sugar Ray Robinson. Sugar Ray Leonard. Roberto Duran. Jake La Motta. Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Thomas Hearns. Alexis Arguello. Felix Trinidad. Even Oscar De La Hoya. And, yes, Pancho Villa. And, of course, Flash Elorde.

They all had their day. They were the best among the best, the greatest among the greatest.

But no one lasts forever. Not even Manny Pacquiao.

Everything, everyone among us, is temporary.

However, the way Bernard Hopkins went on Sunday was something out of this world. This one "good one" had been given a raw deal.

The undisputed middleweight champion of the world lost his crown in a not-so-convincing fashion: split decision.

It's happened before. Boxing isn't the red-light district of sports for nothing.

Okay, Jermain Taylor won the first three rounds, and only because Hopkins refused to fight.

But starting the fourth, Hopkins started fighting. Still, I'd say he still fought defensively up to the seventh. In fact, he lost the seventh.

Hopkins came back strong, though, in the eighth. Although he lost the ninth by a hair, 10, 11 and 12 were easily Hopkins'.

Judge Jerry Roth scored the fight 116-112 for Hopkins, but judges Duane Ford and Paul Smith both had it 115-113 for Taylor. The AP scored it 114-113 for Hopkins.

I had Hopkins the winner, 115-113.

It would have been 114-113 like the AP. But I have stopped the practice of scoring it even in any particular round. Somewhere along a 3-minute brawl—or non-brawl—of any round, I believe one guy must have sneaked in a punch or two to the other for the so-called marginal shot.

There is no doubt that Taylor, who has knocked out 17 foes in an undefeated string of 23 fights before he fought Hopkins, would proceed to become a great boxer. At 26, he has the world virtually on his lap.

But this Sunday against Hopkins, he didn't look like a worthy champion.

He was mostly fighting defensively. He never really landed a big one.

In the 10th, Taylor got hit twice by huge, bone-jarring rights from someone who should be too tired fighting at that stage. At age 40, Hopkins should now be seated in a rocking chair, sipping wine, watching the sunset.

But no, Hopkins still got some power left in his fists, particularly his right hand. Had he decided to put more heat in the 10th, or even in the 11th, 12th, who knows Taylor would have gone down on all fours in any of those rounds.

Maybe, Hopkins thought he was ahead that's why he chose the safer path—win on points?

Maybe, Hopkins was more preoccupied about keeping his winning streak of 20 title-defenses than beating Taylor by knockout?

Knockout or not, it would have still counted anyway as a victory?

Or, has time dulled his guts, if not his instincts?

Sometimes, even the best falter.

It was Hopkins' first loss since he lost to Roy Jones Jr. 12 years ago.

But it wasn't really a loss in the realm of things.

It was close, yes, but only because Hopkins had made it so.

Taylor, being the challenger, wasn't really that aggressive all the way, that's why I'm surprised why the two judges had judged the fight the way they did.

Hopkins' 20 consecutive successful defenses built over a decade had been snapped, yes, but, in my mind, Hopkins' reign hasn't really been that thoroughly, if not decisively, shattered.

A rematch should therefore be a must?

Maybe, but at age 40, Hopkins should think of retiring.

Maybe, the split decision loss was a blessing in disguise, a hint that quitting while ahead would be the best option now, given the length of time that Hopkins had stayed at the top?

All things must pass. Even a good one. Like Bernard Hopkins.

* * *

e-mail comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

ARMSTRONG cools off during the 15th stage of the Tour de France. AP

Armstrong's teammate tops leg in 'perfect day'

SAINT-LARY-SOULAN, France—As Lance Armstrong prepared for what may be the hardest stage of the Tour de France, the widow of a friend and teammate killed in a crash a decade ago told him to go for the win.

That was the only thing that didn't work out for Armstrong on Sunday, which he called "a perfect day."

Armstrong settled for watching his most loyal teammate, genial American George Hincapie, pedal to victory high in the Pyrenees—his first-ever individual stage victory in the Tour and the first by one of Armstrong's support riders.

And, taking care of business, Armstrong solidified his overall race lead in the brutal 15th stage—staying on track to retire with a seventh consecutive Tour victory next Sunday.

At the finish, the two riders—friends since they were teenagers—hugged and Armstrong gave a thumbs-up.

"This is a dream for me," the 32-year-old Hincapie said. "I'm really in a state of shock."

The 33-year-old Armstrong called Hincapie "my biggest guy, my biggest friend on the team."

"We've been riding together since we were 17," said Armstrong, who finished seventh. "The guy is one of the best riders in cycling. Period. I'm so proud of him."

Usually, Armstrong's teammates devote themselves entirely to making sure that he wins, and have few chances for Tour glory of their own. Their only wins have been collective ones—in team time trials that Armstrong's squad won for the third consecutive time this year.

But in the sun-baked 205.5-kilometer (128-mile) trek up six mountain climbs, Hincapie joined a group of riders that broke away from the main pack, which included Armstrong. *AP*

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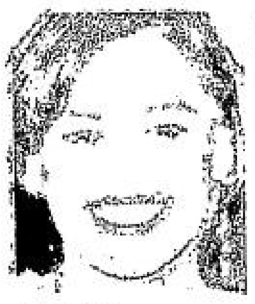
on July 26, 2005 • STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

Rookie clinches Canadian Open; Delasin co-sixth



DELASIN

HAMMOND PLAINS, Canada—South Korean rookie Meena Lee took advantage of a collapse by Scotland's Janice Moodie to capture her first LPGA title here Sunday, winning the $1.3 million Canadian Women's Open.

Lee, fifth when the day began, fired a three-under-par 69 for a one-stroke victory over Australia's Katherine Hull.

Filipino-American Dorothy Delasin and South Korean Il Mi Chung, two strokes off the pace overnight, shot 73 and 72, respectively, and were unable to halt Lee's title run.

The 24-year-old Christmas-born Korean finished at nine-under 279 to claim the $195,000 top prize, making a charge in the final 12 holes after Moodie, who led after each of the first three rounds, stumbled at the finish.

Moodie appeared set for her first title in three years but fired a final-round 75, three-over par, to finish sixth, three strokes off the pace. *AFP*

FedEx-RP routs Malaysia for 3rd

HONG KONG—FedEx-RP struck hard in the second and third quarters to rout Malaysia, 84-57, Sunday night and land third in the 14th Eastcolight Super Kung Sheung Cup International Invitational at the Hong Kong Coliseum here.

The Filipinos, living up to their billing as Southeast Asia's best, showed too much savvy against the Malaysians, the newly crowned Seaba champions, in finishing behind eventual champion Hong Kong and the United States-based Asian American Sports Club.

The win—the Express' third in five matches—was a vindication of sorts for the Basketball Association of the Philippines-supported Filipinos, who failed to defend the Seaba title in Kuala Lumpur after being slapped with an indefinite suspension by the International Basketball Federation.

"We're proud to have earned the respect of the participating teams here," said FedEx-RP team coach Johny Tam.

Hong Kong took the title for the 13th year by drubbing AASC, 79-63, also Sunday.

Taylor, Hopkins keen on rematch

LAS VEGAS—After taking away Bernard Hopkins' undisputed middleweight title with a split decision, Jermain Taylor wants a rematch as much as Hopkins does.

For Taylor, who turns 27 in August, there are many other options. Yet he has no qualms about getting back into the ring with the 40-year-old Hopkins. "He deserves that rematch and the same thing is going to happen," Taylor said. "It's just going to be easier."

With a rematch clause in the contract, both boxers can begin planning pretty soon.

"Technology today can give you the benefit of the doubt to go back and reflect," Hopkins said. "One thing about videotape is that it don't lie." *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Valid Hazm 2. Sovereign Dancer 3. Time Enchanted 4. Beat D Heat

Race 2—1. Presidentiable 2. Demolition Jack 3. 3. Golden Cat 4. Princess Sophia 5. Security Star

Race 3—1. Awesome Power 2. Dark Beat 3. Princess Sarah 4. Sea of Galilee

Race 4—1. Rebecca's Magic/Lolek D Great 2. Mainstay 3. Northern Reef/K Mister Vee 4. Winner Take All 5. Dream the Truth 6. Kate Alessandra

Race 5—1. Farragut's Order 2. House of Riches 3. Seniority 4. Hello Junior

Race 6—1. Red Bells 2. Magic Dancer 3. Fille D Honneur 4. Super Shuttle

Race 7—1. Pyramid Relaunch 2. Dazzling Affair 3. Do It David 4. Lord Brian

Race 8—1. Calvin's Magic 2. Mr. Positive 3. Patago 4. Western Dancer 5. Silver Dollar 6. Jaw Breaker

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Ultron REV-X
OIL for a Million WINNERS
₱200,000
RONALD ARANAR
CALOOCAN CITY
₱200,000
LEMUEL CABANTE
ILIGAN CITY
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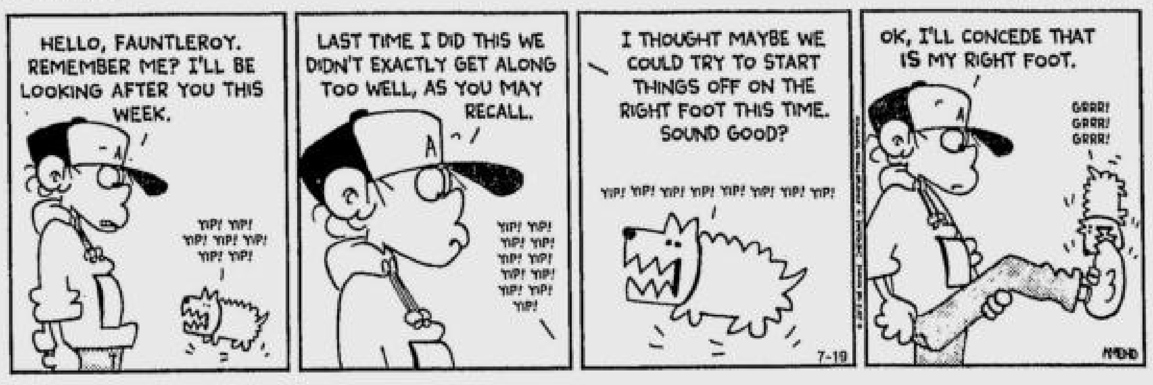
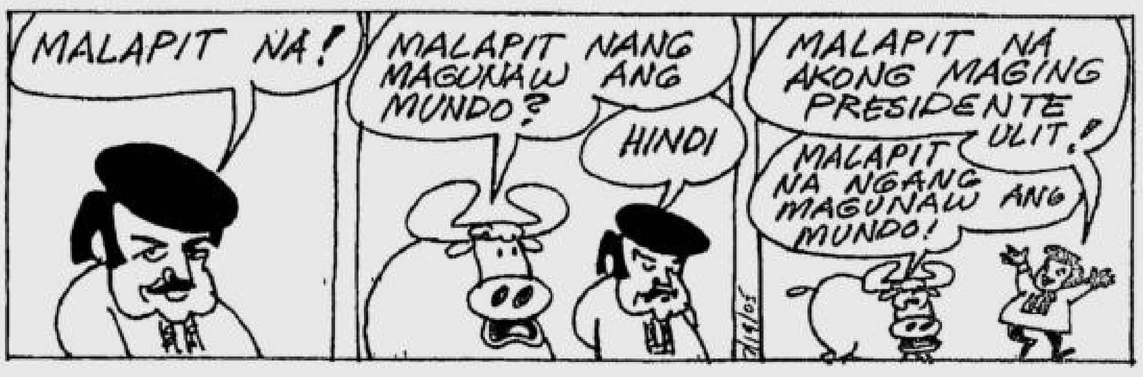
ALFREDO VICTORIA
LEYTE
Sa makinang inaasahan, proteksyong Petron ang kailangan. Kaya laging gumamit ng Rev-X at Ultron.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2467 Series of 2004.

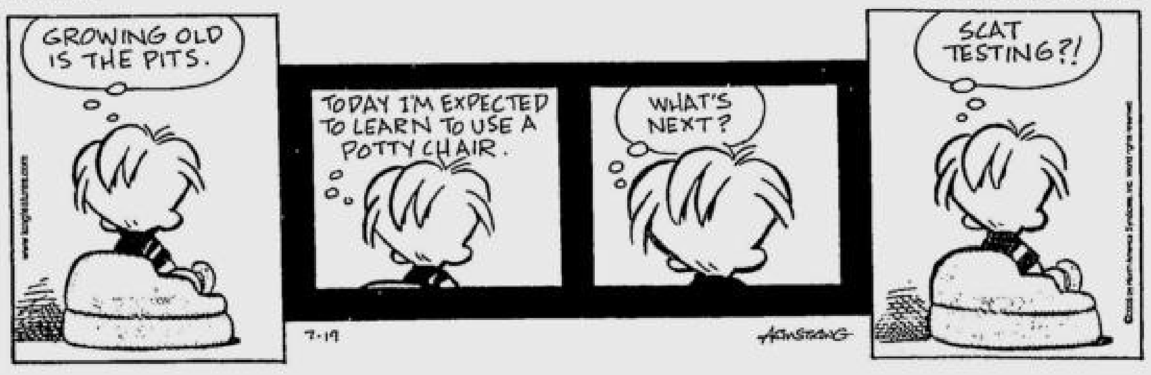
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


HELLO, FAUNTLEROY. REMEMBER ME? I'LL BE LOOKING AFTER YOU THIS WEEK.
YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP!
LAST TIME I DID THIS WE DIDN'T EXACTLY GET ALONG TOO WELL, AS YOU MAY RECALL.
YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP!
I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD TRY TO START THINGS OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT THIS TIME. SOUND GOOD?
YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP!
7-19
OK, I'LL CONCEDE THAT IS MY RIGHT FOOT.
GRRR! GRRR! GRRR!
AMEND

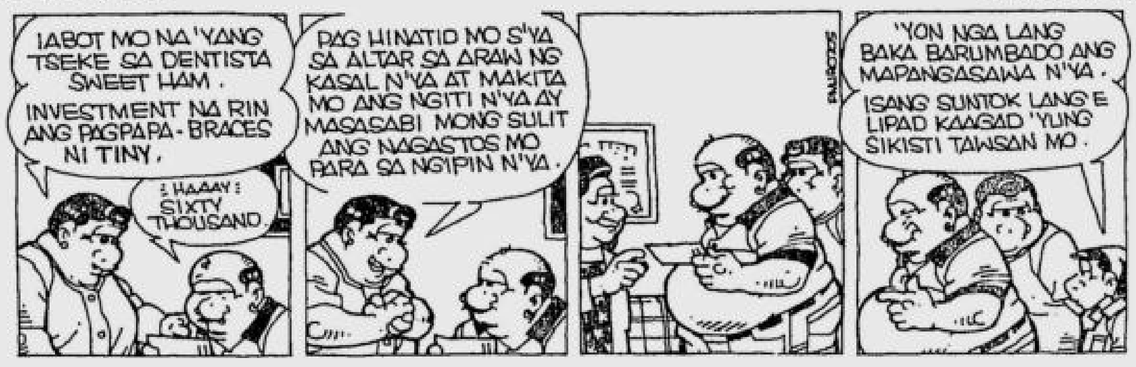
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


MALAPIT NA!
MALAPIT NANG MAGUNAW ANG MUNDO?
HINDI
MALAPIT NA AKONG MAGING PRESIDENTE ULIT!
MALAPIT NA NGANG MAGUNAW ANG MUNDO!

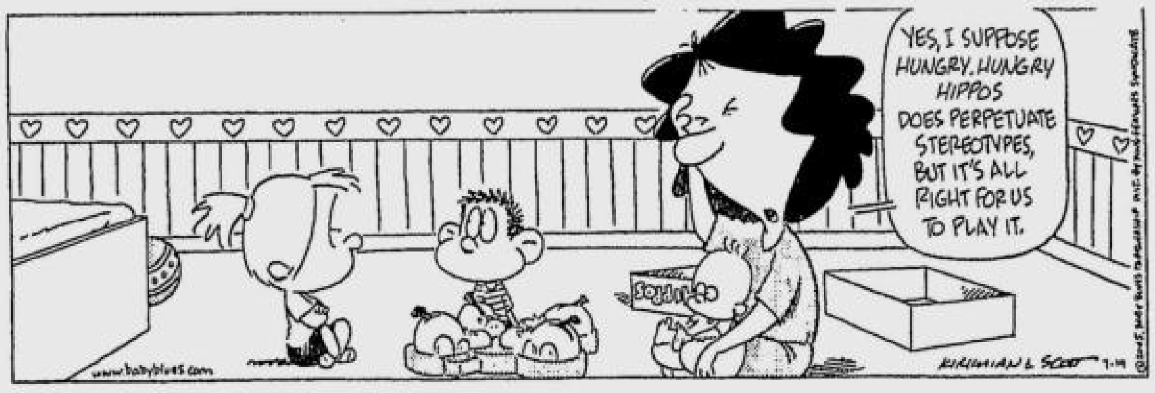
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


GROWING OLD IS THE PITS.
TODAY I'M EXPECTED TO LEARN TO USE A POTTY CHAIR.
WHAT'S NEXT?
SCAT TESTING?!
7-19
ARMSTRONG

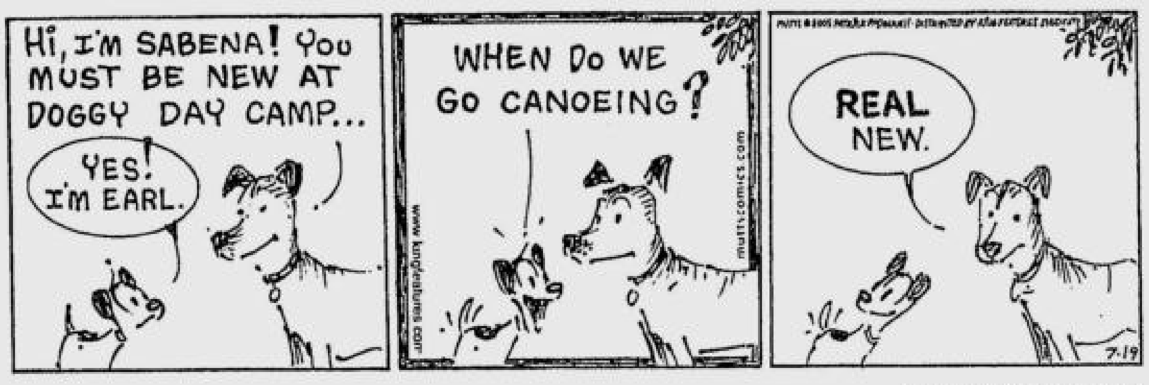
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


IABOT MO NA 'YANG TSEKE SA DENTISTA SWEET HAM.
INVESTMENT NA RIN ANG PAGPAPA-BRACES NI TINY.
HAAAY: SIXTY THOUSAND.
PAG HINATID MO S'YA SA ALTAR SA ARAW NG KASAL N'YA AT MAKITA MO ANG NGITI N'YA AY MASASABI MONG SULIT ANG NAGASTOS MO PARA SA NGIPIN N'YA.
'YON NGA LANG BAKA BARUMBADO ANG MAPANGASAWA N'YA.
ISANG SUNTOK LANG E LIPAD KAAGAD 'YUNG SIKISTI TAWSAN MO.

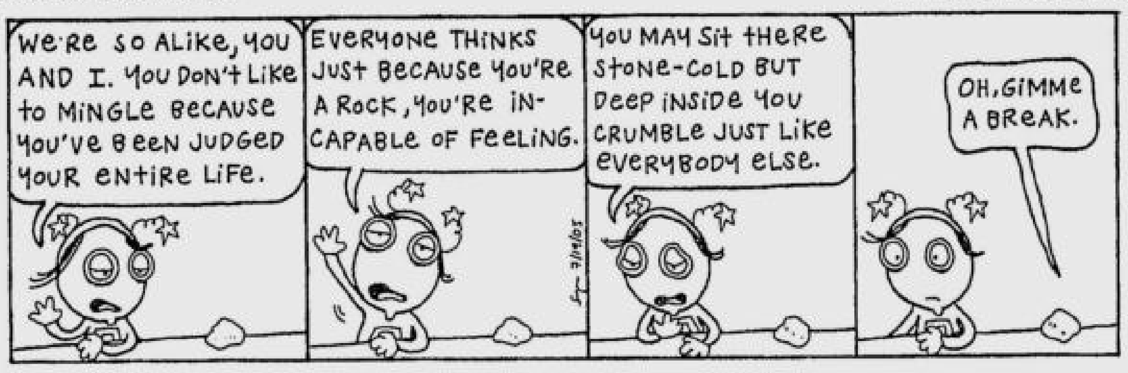
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


YES, I SUPPOSE HUNGRY, HUNGRY HIPPOS DOES PERPETUATE STEREOTYPES, BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR US TO PLAY IT.
www.babyblues.com
KIRKMAN & SCOTT 7-19

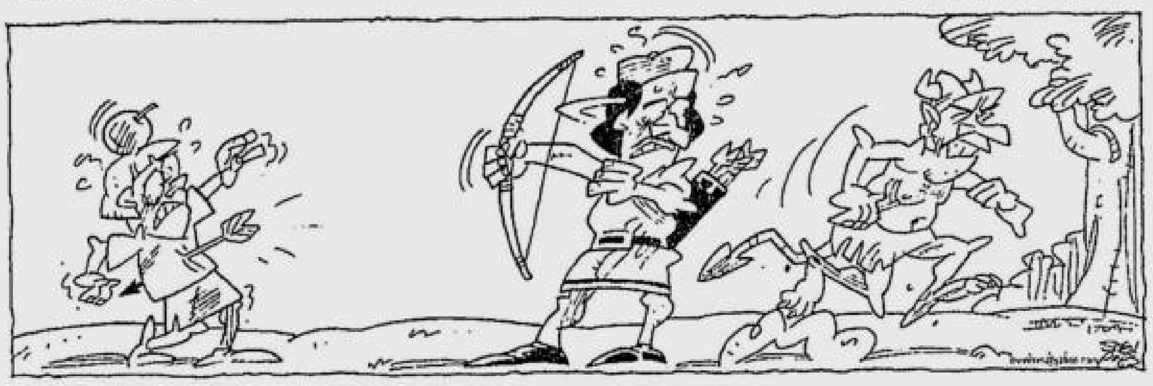
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Hi, I'M SABENA! YOU MUST BE NEW AT DOGGY DAY CAMP...
YES! I'M EARL.
WHEN DO WE GO CANOEING?
REAL NEW.
7-19

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WE'RE SO ALIKE, YOU AND I. YOU DON'T LIKE TO MINGLE BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN JUDGED YOUR ENTIRE LIFE.
EVERYONE THINKS JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A ROCK, YOU'RE IN-CAPABLE OF FEELING.
YOU MAY SIT THERE STONE-COLD BUT DEEP INSIDE YOU CRUMBLE JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE.
OH, GIMME A BREAK.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Despite your inner sensitivity, you have an aloof, elegant mask to present to the world. Although fearless and courageous, you're sensitive and sentimental. Most of you can deal well with the public. Your humanitarian nature makes you helpful to others. Expect increased solitude this year in order to learn something important.

Birthdate of: Carlos Santana, musician; Diana Rigg, actress; Natalie Wood, actress.

ARIES
(March 21 to April 19)
Avoid arguments with authority figures, parents, teachers and police today. Pushing your agenda is not a good idea. Just sit back and watch. Collect your data.

TAURUS
(April 20 to May 20)
Issues related to publishing, medicine, the law and education are a bit sticky today. If you can avoid these areas, do so. If not, lower your expectations.

GEMINI
(May 21 to June 20)
You might not agree with others about how to share something. Look deeply into your own motivation. If your objective is positive and helpful to all concerned, that's all that matters.

CANCER
(June 21 to July 22)
People are highly opinionated today! (You don't like rough stuff.) Therefore, lie low and just watch the words fly. You don't have to get involved.

LEO
(July 23 to Aug. 22)
Your desire to take charge of something at work could get out of hand. You might find yourself in hot water, which is all right if you're a tea bag. (But there are easier ways to stay clean!)

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
You think your bright, creative ideas can earn money. And perhaps they can. Nevertheless, don't count your chickens before they're barbecued.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
Try to be open-minded and cooperative today. Your impulse is to dig in your heels about something at home. But what will this achieve? Remember: You need harmony around you.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
For some reason, you're prepared to push your agenda today. Perhaps this is not wise. Try to see what others want before you decide what they need.

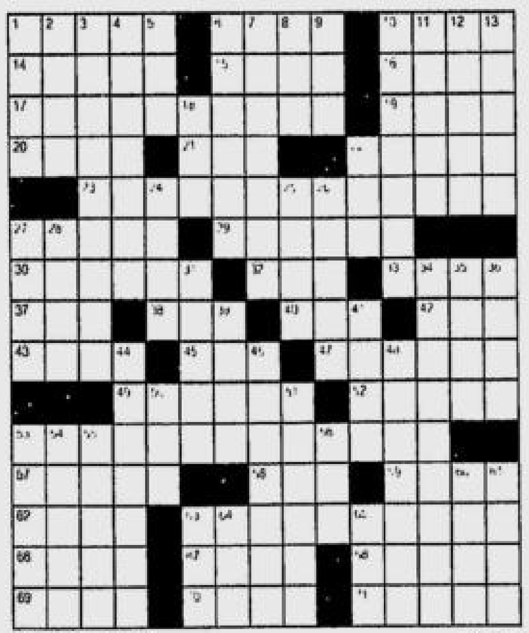
SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
You have big money-making ideas today. (Good. You might pull them off.) On the other hand, don't overextend yourself. Don't spend too much money. Don't expect too much.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
You're entrenched in your views today. Because of this, you will take on anyone at home or at work. But is this wise? Try to keep the peace at home, especially.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
You have a scientific mind, and you love to debate. Today you want to enlighten others about philosophical, political or religious concepts.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 to March 20)
You might lend a friend too much money today. Or you might spend too much money with a friend today. Either way, be more prudent and cautious with financial matters. (You'll be glad you did.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alison Donald
Hartsdale, NY
7/19/05

ACROSS
1 Brit's title in India
6 Italian wine region
10 Wilson of the NHL Hall of Fame
14 Without help
15 Slugger Musial
16 Pro __ (in proportion)
17 Informal discussion
19 Israel's airline
20 Exec.'s aide
21 "__ the land of the free.."
22 Lead-in
23 Rustic relative
27 Baby bringer?
29 Close securely
30 Hold in high regard
32 Driving violation: abbr.
33 Belgrade resident
37 Mythical bird
38 Actor Mineo
40 Persona __ grata
42 Hush-hush org.
43 U.S. tennis stadium
45 "Norma __"
47 Oater bar
49 Deserves
52 Experiments
53 Ersatz analysis
57 Bassoon kin
58 Rink material
59 Nora's dog
62 Actor Dullea
63 Lowest point
66 Exxon, formerly
67 "Dies __" (day of wrath)
68 Tractor maker
69 Crystal gazer
70 Bombard
71 Evil spirit

DOWN
1 Poet Teasdale
2 Lamenter's cry
3 Kids' jumping game
4 On the horizon
5 Busy insect
6 Pluses
7 Moved, emotionally
8 The way in China
9 Lodging house
10 Marriage contracts, briefly
11 Ceases
12 Video-game company
13 Claw
18 Chip off the old block
22 Debt letters
24 Hawaiian strings
25 Exhibit boredom
26 Ad awards
27 Vaccines
28 General _ chicken
31 Wed
34 Environmental unit
35 Run wild
36 Prohibits
39 Secular
41 Western alliance letters
44 Sovereign ruler
46 __ Culture Society
48 Bequest recipient
50 Double curve
51 Bulb site
53 Nudges
54 Far from svelte
55 Composure
56 Isr. neighbor
60 Matador's foe
61 __ to that!
63 Actor Torn
64 Mineral vein
65 Roulette bet

Monday's Puzzle Solved

E	M	M	A	■	H	O	Y	T	■	S	T	P	A	T
L	A	I	R	■	A	M	E	S	■	T	E	R	R	A
A	X	L	E	■	N	A	T	E	■	A	C	I	D	S
N	I	T	T	Y	G	R	I	T	T	Y	■	V	E	T
■	■	■	H	O	T	■	■	S	U	P	■	A	N	Y
C	I	G	A	R	E	T	T	E	B	U	T	T	■	■
I	L	A	■	K	N	E	W	■	S	T	R	E	E	T
R	I	L	L	■	■	T	E	E	■	■	A	J	A	R
C	A	L	E	S	A	■	E	G	A	D	■	E	S	E
■	■	S	I	T	T	I	N	G	P	R	E	T	T	Y
W	E	T	■	I	O	N	■	■	P	E	A	■	■	■
E	L	O	■	K	I	T	T	Y	L	I	T	T	E	R
L	A	N	A	I	■	R	E	E	F	■	O	I	L	Y
S	T	E	I	N	■	N	T	W	[illegible]	■	U	R	S	A
H	E	S	S	E	■	T	E	S	S	■	T	E	E	N

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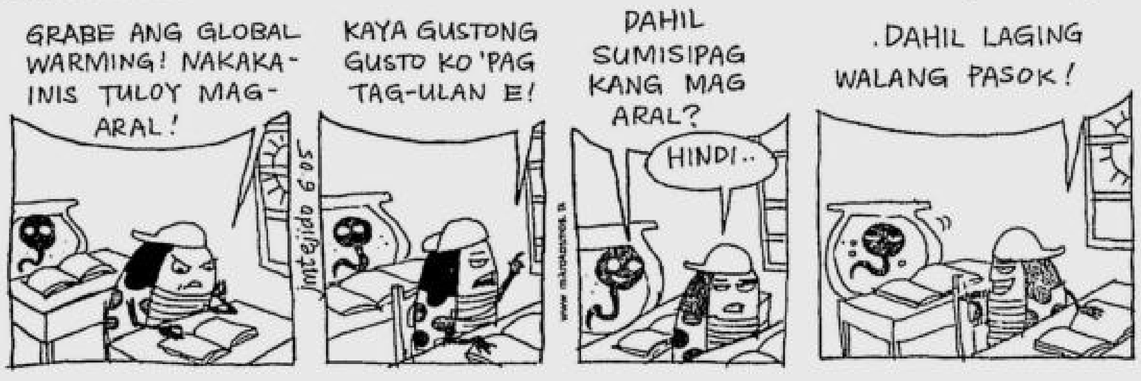
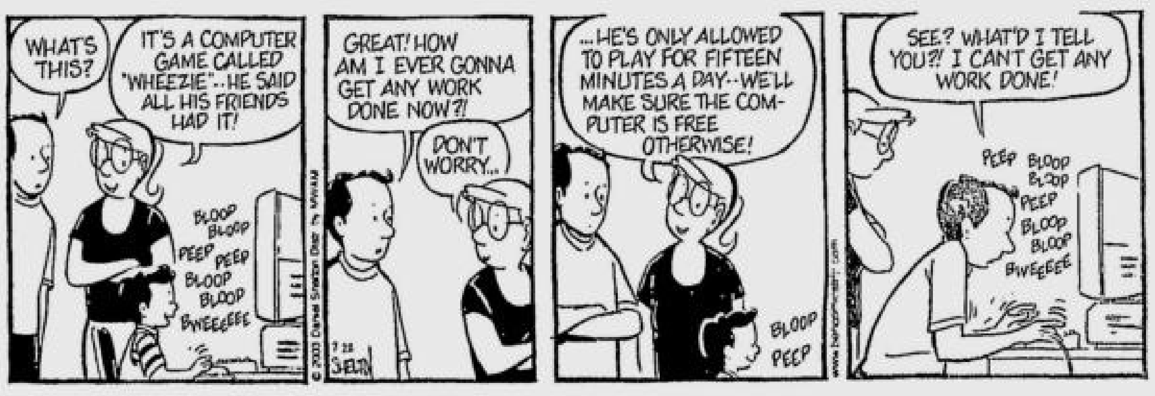
7/19/05

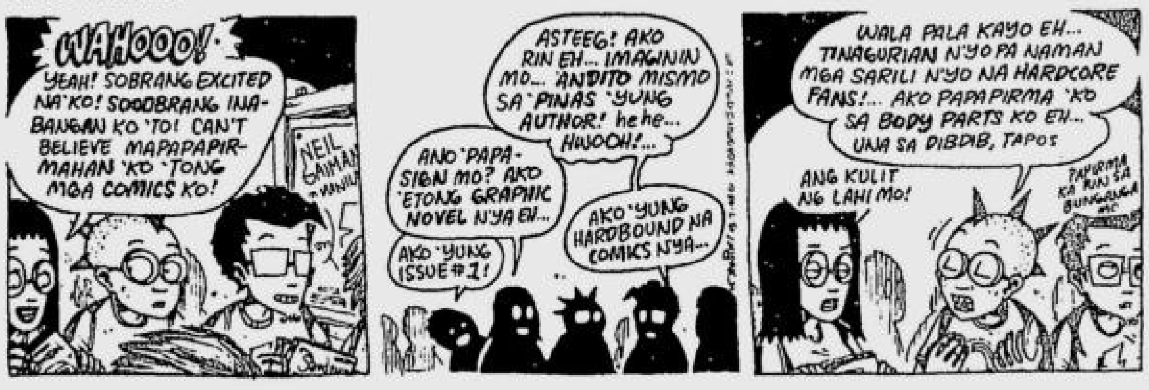
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


GRABE ANG GLOBAL WARMING! NAKAKA-INIS TULOY MAG-ARAL!
KAYA GUSTONG GUSTO KO 'PAG TAG-ULAN E!
DAHIL SUMISIPAG KANG MAG ARAL?
HINDI..
.DAHIL LAGING WALANG PASOK!

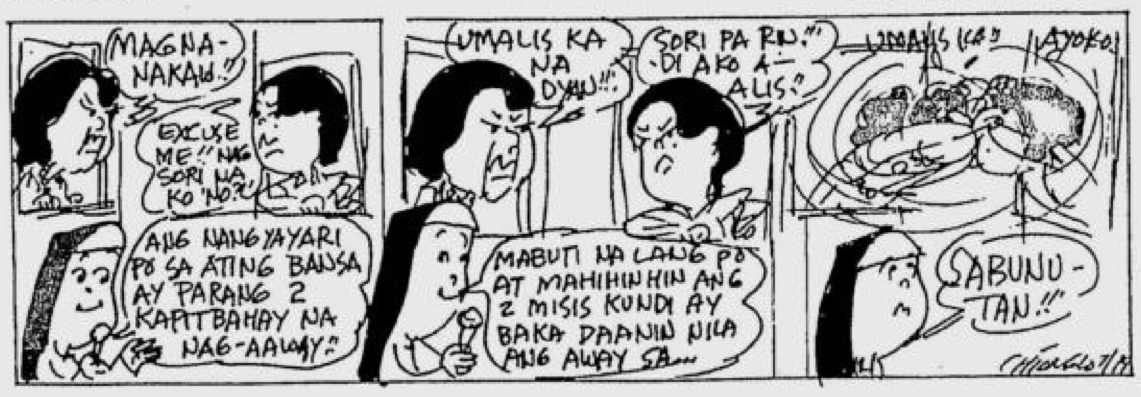
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S A COMPUTER GAME CALLED "WHEEZIE"... HE SAID ALL HIS FRIENDS HAD IT!
BLOOP BLOOP PEEP PEEP BLOOP BLOOP BWEEEEEE
GREAT! HOW AM I EVER GONNA GET ANY WORK DONE NOW?!
DON'T WORRY...
...HE'S ONLY ALLOWED TO PLAY FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES A DAY... WE'LL MAKE SURE THE COMPUTER IS FREE OTHERWISE!
BLOOP PEEP
SEE? WHAT'D I TELL YOU?! I CAN'T GET ANY WORK DONE!
PEEP BLOOP BLOOP PEEP BLOOP BLOOP BWEEEEE

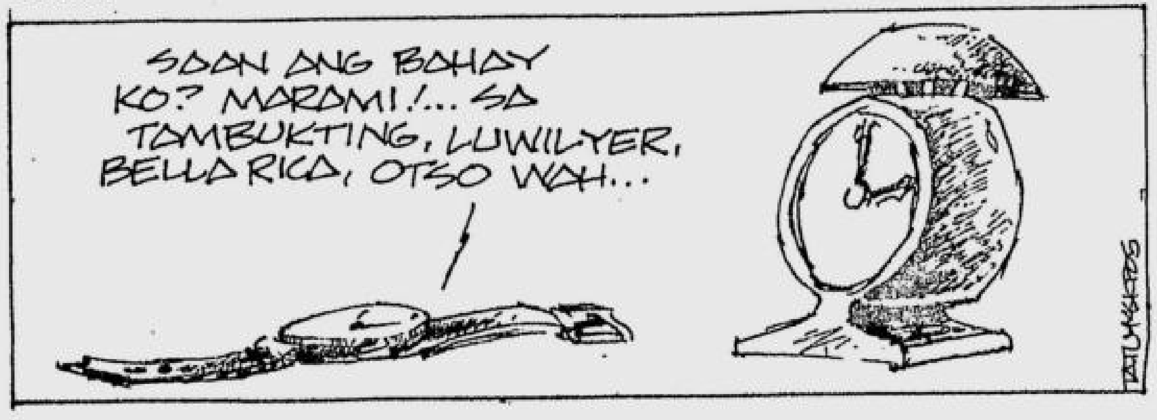
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


WAHOOO!
YEAH! SOBRANG EXCITED NA'KO! SOOOBRANG INA-BANGAN KO 'TO! CAN'T BELIEVE MAPAPAPIR-MAHAN 'KO 'TONG MGA COMICS KO!
NEIL GAIMAN
ASTEEG! AKO RIN EH... IMAGININ MO... 'ANDITO MISMO SA 'PINAS 'YUNG AUTHOR! hehe... HWOOH!...
ANO 'PAPA-SIGN MO? AKO 'ETONG GRAPHIC NOVEL N'YA EH...
AKO 'YUNG ISSUE #1!
AKO 'YUNG HARDBOUND NA COMICS N'YA...
WALA PALA KAYO EH... TINAGURIAN N'YO PA NAMAN MGA SARILI N'YO NA HARDCORE FANS!... AKO PAPAPIRMA 'KO SA BODY PARTS KO EH... UNA SA DIBDIB, TAPOS
ANG KULIT NG LAHI MO!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAGNA-NAKAW!!
EXCUSE ME!! NAG SORI NA KO 'NO?!
ANG NANGYAYARI PO SA ATING BANSA AY PARANG 2 KAPITBAHAY NA NAG-AAWAY!
UMALIS KA NA DYAN!!
SORI PA RIN!! 'DI AKO A-ALIS!!
UMALIS KA!!
AYOKO!
MABUTI NA LANG PO AT MAHIHINHIN ANG 2 MISIS KUNDI AY BAKA DAANIN NILA ANG AWAY SA...
SABUNU-TAN!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SAAN ANG BAHAY KO? MARAMI!... SA TAMBUKTING, LUWILYER, BELLA RICA, OTSO WAH...

'Fear Factor' contestants take it all off

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"FEAR Factor," the "reality challenge" TV show, has been a hit on the small screen for many seasons now.

It's popular viewing fare due to the difficulty of its physical and psychological challenges, and because it enables viewers to emphatically recognize and surmount their own fears.

Of late, however, the show has occasionally been a turn-off due to the escalating yukkiness of some of its gustatory challenges. In trying to top the last season's exotic menu of insects and innards, the program has gone from gross to gross-out, and some viewers have complained in no uncertain terms.

Perhaps in reaction to this public outcry, the show's think tank has come up with different kinds of tests of gumption and resolve that don't focus exclusively on hurl-inducing comestibles.

Last Monday night, we caught a "Fear Factor" telecast on cable that really called attention to itself with its far-out challenge that involved, not eating, but—stripping.

That's right: After years of focusing on people's fear of enclosed spaces, tall buildings, water, snakes, and fire, and compelling contestants to ingest all sorts of inedibles, last week's "Fear Factor" zeroed in instead on our, uh, Fear of Public Nudity."

The show forced its seven contestants to take off their clothes—all of them—and then parade up and down a ramp in full view of a studio audience, for minutes on end.

The studio audience got a huge eyefull but viewers were spared the visual "excitement," because shots of the impromptu nudists' bodies were rendered acceptably fuzz for the "GP" medium of television.

Still, the novel challenge was one for the books. At first, we though that some of the contestants would balk at the unique test, and thus give up their chance to win $50,000.

But, wonder of wonders, all of the contenders agreed to cavort around in their birthday suits, to the studio audience's whooping delight—or shock.

Why were the contestants so agreeably uninhibited?

Operative factors could include financial need and the currently more permissive view of nudity, what with fashions as revealing as they are now. Decades of psychiatry could also have freed some people from shyness in relation to their bodies, and their nude unveiling.

Whatever, the reason, the "Fear Factor" contestants let it all, uh, hang out, and grinned and blushed for all they were worth. Was it worth the cash prize that eventually went to the episode's winner? That's the $50,000 question.

Voice Master Class

CRIS Villonco has just completed here junior year, at Sarah Lawrence College. She has invited her voice professor, **Eddye Pierce Young**, to conduct Master Classes in Manila. Schedule: July 25, 2 to 5 p.m., UP College of Music. July 26, 2-5 p.m., Santiago Hall, Equitable PCIBank, Makati Avenue. July 27, 2-5 p.m, UST Conservatory of Music.

Cris shares, "My purpose is to give music teachers and standouts an opportunity to interact and address problems of vocal technique with a clinician experienced in the field of voice training and care, most particularly of students and professional singers in New York City.

"Although Ms Young's speciality is opera and classical singing, she will also address contemporary styles like musical theater, jazz, gospel and pop. Voice students and audience alike will receive coaching in a performance-based setting where they can also learn from each other."

"D' Anothers"

JOYCE Bernal's latest film, "D' Anothers," tells the funny story of Hesus Resurrection (Vhong Navarro) whose fear of ghosts vanishes into thin air when he is turned into a medium by the restless ghosts that inhabit the house he's inherited.

The movie's young actors play ghosts of all shapes and sizes. The stellar cast includes **Toni Gonzaga, Jhong Hilario, Joross Gamboa, Roxanne Guinoo, John Prats, Archie Alemania, Michelle Madrigal, Mura, Tado and Joshua Docareza.**

Joyce first worked with Vhong in "Mr. Suave" two years ago. She observes, "He's improved a lot, both as a comedian and as a person. He now fights for what he thinks is right in executing a scene. I like that kind of attitude."

Movies on TV

ON HBO, July 19 at 6:30 p.m., "Avenging Angelo."

8:10 a.m., "Miss Lettie and Me." 1 p.m., "The Last Samurai."

On Cinemax, July 19 at 10:15 a.m., "Will Penny." 3:30 p.m., "Marjorie Morningstar."

On Star Movies, July 19 at 9 p.m., "Johnny English," with **Rowan Atkinson** playing an accident-prone agent on a mission to rescue Britain's Crown Jewels.

Promax award

NICKELODEON Asia recently received the prestigious Silver Promax for Special Project award for its "Let's Just Play" 2004 campaign. The pro-social initiative encouraged children to engage in healthy, active lifestyles.

The campaign employed on-air, off-air, on-ground and on-line media, as well as partnerships with schools and community organizations to reinforce the value of play in a kid's life.

The Promax and BDA awards are presented to TV and radio companies and individual workers whose work is deemed outstanding in terms of overall creativity, production quality and results in achieving marketing objectives.

Cinemalaya at Cine Adarna

CINEMALAYA will go on extended run in a moveover engagement at UP's Cine Adarna from July 18 to 23. Schedule: July 18, 5 p.m., "ICU Bed #7." 7:30 p.m., "Baryoke."

July 19, 5 p.m., "Big Time." 7:30 p.m., "Pepot Artista." July 20, 5 p.m., "Room Boy." 7:30 p.m., "Isnats." July 21, 5 p.m., "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros." 7:30 p.m., "Sarong Banggi."

July 22, 7:30 p.m., "Lasponggols." July 23, 5 p.m., the six Cinemalaya short films—"Alimuon," "Babae," "Blood Bank," "Kultado," "Mansyon," "Panaginipan." 7:30 p.m., the Cinemalaya best picture winner.

MTRCB G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED

FANTASTIC FOUR
4
NOW SHOWING

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Shang Cineplex
1 FANTASTIC FOUR GP
2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED GP
3 IF ONLY PG13
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13
FANTASTIC FOUR GP

Filinvest Festival Cinema
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 HERBIE FULLY LOADED
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 HERBIE FULLY LOADED
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 PINOY BLONDE
9 IF ONLY
10 CAMPUS GHOST STORY

Eastwood Cinemas
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 IF ONLY
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

Cinema 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 MONSTER IN LAW

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 MONSTER IN LAW
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 NEW POLICE STORY
4 PINOY BLONDIE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 SIX
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 SIN CITY
2 CREEP
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 UNLEASHED
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 HERBIE FULLY LOADED
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 HERBIE FULLY LOADED
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238
1 SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN
5 SOON TO OPEN

Universal
(Manila) tel: 7334043 or 2470
1 PINOY BLONDE

Marketplace
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 CREEP
2 MONSTER IN LAW
3 GRACIA
4 RESERVED

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 7266150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 PINOY BLONDE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) FANTASTIC FOUR
5 HERBIE FULLY LOADED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 HERBIE FULLY LOADED

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 5433994
1 KIRIDA
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 HERBIE FULLY LOADED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PINOY BLONDE
3 NEW POLICE STORY
4 HERBIE FULLY LOSDED

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 POLICE STORY
2 PINOY BLONDE
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 HERBIE FULLY LOADED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8409
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 SIX
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 BATMAN BEGINS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 KALAPATI SA GABI
3 PROSTIE
4 RIPPER LETTER FROM HELL

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PINOY BLONDE
3 MONSTER IN LAW
4 KALAPATI SA GABI
5 NEW POLICE STORY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 COACH CARTER
2 CREEP
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 SIN CITY

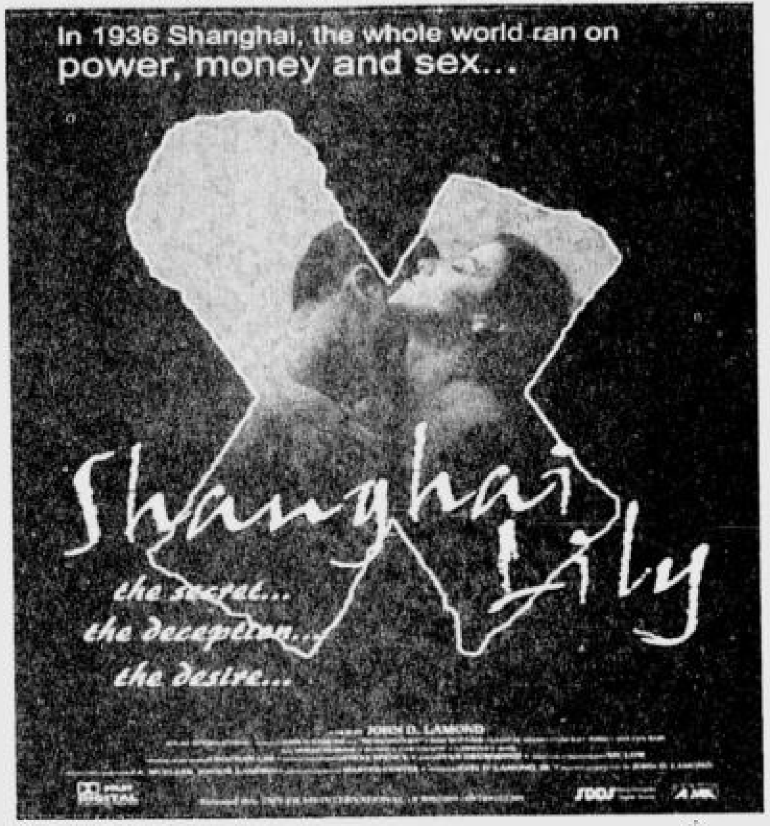
starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel 8735004
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 RESERVED

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MADAGASCAR

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 TAMPISAW

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

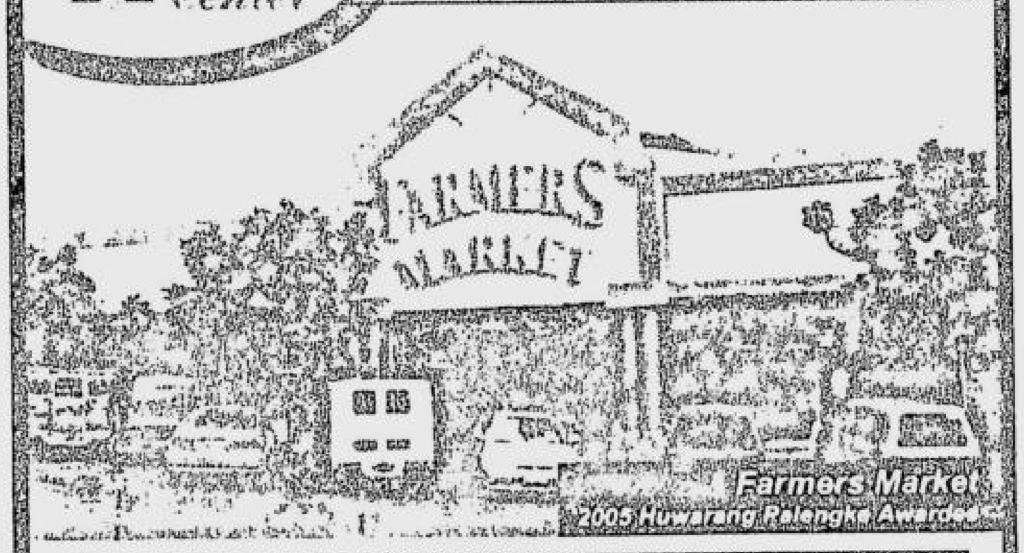
The most controversial erotic thriller of the year...



In 1936 Shanghai, the whole world ran on power, money and sex...
Shanghai Lily
the secret...
the deception...
the desire...
JOHN D. LAMOND

exclusively at
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
july 06 - 19
MTRCB Rating R-18
Strictly for adults only due to its graph sexual content

Araneta Center Leisure Guide



CINEMA SCHEDULES
Cineplex 10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 WAR OF THE WORLDS & FANTASTIC 4
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

IF ONLY
12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
NEW POLICE STORY
12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
FANTASTIC FOUR
12:20 / 2:45 / 5:10 / 7:35 / 10:00
CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9.00
WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:20 / 2:45 / 5:10 / 7:35 / 10:00
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9.50
PINOY BLONDE
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
MONSTER IN LAW
1:40 / 4:05 / 6:30 / 9:00

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION : P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40
② NEW POLICE STORY
12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
③ FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 R4 / 1:10 / 3:35 / 6:00 / 8:25
④ PINOY BLONDE
11:50 / 2.00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30
⑤ WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:10 R4 / 1:35 / 4:00 / 6:25 / 8:50
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
July 21, 23, 28, 30 & 31 UAAP GAMES
10 am / 12 nn / 2 pm / 4 pm
JOHN MAXWELL ASIAN TOUR 2005
July 22, Friday 6.00 pm
UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES
August 13, Saturday
CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE
August 26, Friday OPENING GAMES

CENTER EVENTS
SALE EVENTS — Freeway, Solo and Barbizon & Sassa at Ali Mall; Cumbia, Rustan's Department Store, Mossimo, Marithe & Francois Girbaud, Bass, LA'Gear, Lacoste Footwear, Orange Juice, Folded & Hung, Bayo and Arrow at Gateway Mall
PERFORMANCES — UPLJE with Skarlet, Chedi & Affinity with Cooky Chua on July 22, 23 & 24 at the Gateway Roxas Tunnel

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

EVENTS SCHEDULES PROMOS
NOW SHOWING at SM CINEMA

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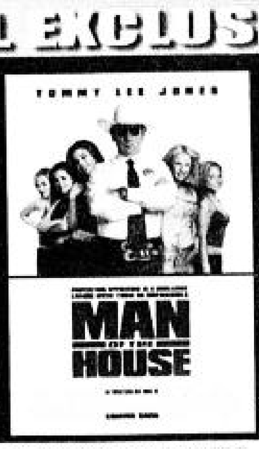
PLAN YOUR ESCAPE
THE ISLAND
Showing on July 20 at SM Cinemas

FOR GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium 633-8976
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
01:35FS/02:15MF/04:30/06:45
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:40END
2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
01:35FS/02:15MF/04:30/06:45
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:40END

cebu (032) 231-3876
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
12:00FS/12:50MF/02:36/04:54/07:12
09:12LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:49/05:42/7:35
09:23LFS/09:40LMF/11:20END
3 NEW POLICE STORY
11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05
09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:35END

FEEL EXCLUSIVE Now SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY at SM CINEMA



IcePrincess

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MAN OF THE HOUSE
WHEN A TEXAN RANGER TEAMS UP WITH CHEERLEADERS
Watch it at SM North EDSA today!

Ice Princess
BE INSPIRED TO FOLLOW [illegible]
Watch it at SM [illegible]

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
8 IF ONLY
9 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 PINOY BLONDE
12 MAN OF THE HOUSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 CREEP
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 PINOY BLONDE
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
9 IF ONLY
10 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
11 BATMAN BEGINS
12 ICE PRINCESS

SM NORTH EDSA
FANTASTIC FOUR
WAR OF THE WORLDS
IF ONLY
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
PINOY BLONDE
6 NEW POLICE STORY
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY STA MESA
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 IF ONLY
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 MONSTER-IN-LAW
9 PINOY BLONDE
10 NASAAN KA MAN

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
5 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 NASAAN KA MAN
8 MONSTER-IN-LAW
9 IF ONLY
10 PINOY BLONDE

SM CITY MANILA
1 IF ONLY
FANTASTIC FOUR
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 NEW POLICE STORY
WAR OF THE WORLDS
FANTASTIC FOUR
MONSTER-IN-LAW
8 BATMAN BEGINS
CAMPUS GHOST STORY
10 CREEP
11 PINOY BLONDE
MR. & MRS. SMITH

SM SAN LAZARO
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
3 IF ONLY
4 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 PINOY BLONDE

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 PINOY BLONDE
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM CITY BICUTAN
FANTASTIC FOUR
WAR OF THE WORLDS
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
NEW POLICE STORY

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 PINOY BLONDE
6 NEW POLICE STORY

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
2 PINOY BLONDE
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY BACOOR
1 CREEP
2 PINOY BLONDE
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 NEW POLICE STORY
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
7 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
8 BATMAN BEGINS

SM CITY MARILAO
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 PINOY BLONDE
4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

SM CITY DASMARINAS
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
PINOY BLONDE
NEW POLICE STORY
FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY LUCENA
FANTASTIC FOUR
WAR OF THE WORLDS
PREMONITION
HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

SM CITY BATANGAS
WAR OF THE WORLDS
MONSTER-IN-LAW
RESERVED
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 NEW POLICE STORY
4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
5 PINOY BLONDE
6 HOTEL RWANDA
7 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
8 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY ILOILO
1 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
2 RESERVED
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 SIN CITY
5 A LOT LIKE LOVE
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
RESERVED
8 CREEP

SM CITY DAVAO
NEW POLICE STORY
2 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
PINOY BLONDE
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 SIN CITY
FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
FANTASTIC FOUR
PINOY BLONDE
SIN CITY
4 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

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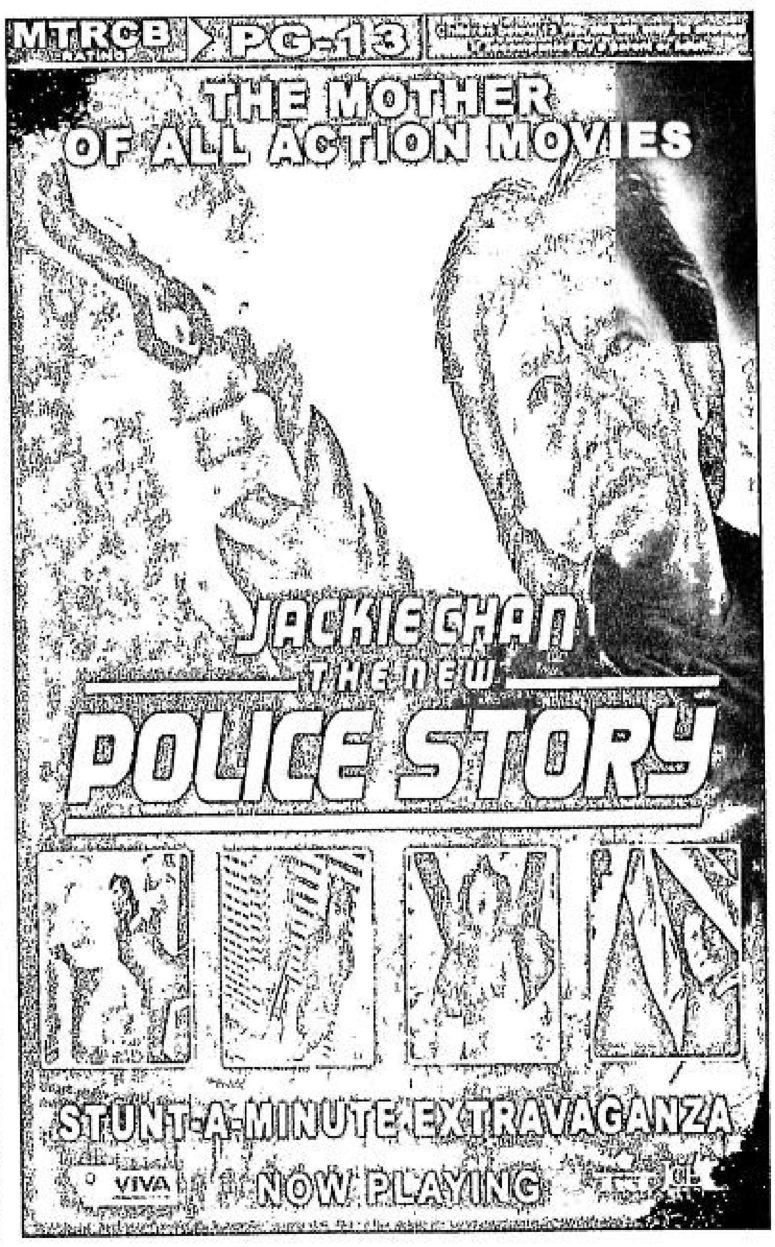

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER
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MANUEL Conde and Inday Jalandoni in "Genghis Khan" SOFIA'S MONOGRAPH

Where . . .

From page A28

abouts in his research at the US Library of Congress.

"Tatlo, Dalawa, Isa" was also returned to Lino's brother Danny Brocka, who later turned it over to the CCP.

On one condition

"But they will return the films only if we have an archive that will take care of it here," Del Mundo stressed.

This is why the original "Darna" (with Rosa del Rosario) and "Dyesebel" (with Edna Luna), both "rediscovered" in Thailand, have yet to come home.

"That was the condition given by Thailand," said Teddy Co, a film curator and member of the Committee on Cinema of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts. "The first questions they asked were: 'Can you take care of it? Do you have the facilities?'"

The Thais' copies of "Darna" and "Dyesebel" are incomplete, however.

"Both are 16mm prints, without sound," Del Mundo said. "Perhaps, the movies were set to be dubbed in Thai."

Another rare find in Thailand was Gerry de Leon's "Banga ni Zimadar."

"At first, Howie Severino (who did a report on 'Darna' and 'Dyesebel' for GMA-7's 'I-Witness') couldn't identify it," Co said. "One, it's an Arabic fantasy; two, it was dubbed in Mandarin."

Co and Mowelfund also spearheaded the retrieval of De Leon's "Sanda Wong" from Hong Kong. "It was found in 1985, recovered in 1988 and restored in 1998."

A co-production between local studio Premiere and Hong Kong's Ho Chapman, "Sanda Wong" was dubbed in Cantonese.

These unexpected discoveries offer a glimmer of hope.

DIRECTOR Del Mundo and his "Pepot," Elijah Castillo, receive the Best Film trophy RAFFY LERMA

Cinemalaya winners

TOP prizes in the first Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival and Competition were handed out in a brisk and upbeat ceremony held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater last Sunday.

In the full-length feature category, Clodualdo del Mundo's "Pepot Artista" won Best Film and the Best Editing award for Daniel Adapon.

The Special Jury award was given to Michiko S. Yamamoto's "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros." The film also brought home the Best Production Design trophy for Clint Catalan, Christina Dy and Lily Equillon and a Special Citation for the exemplary performance of its 13-year-old lead star Nathan Lopez.

In the shorts division, Joel Ruiz's "Mansyon" was declared Best Film while the Special Jury prize was awarded to Lawrence Fajardo's "Kultado."

"ICU Bed #7" won Best Actor for Eddie Garcia and Best Director-Feature for Rica Arevalo.

Meryll Soriano won Best Actress for "Roomboy."

"Big Time" won Best Screenplay-Feature for Mario Cornejo and Monster Jimenez, as well as Best Sound for Raffy Magsaysay.

Sigrid Andrea Bernardo won Best Director-Short for "Babae" and Pam Miras won Best Screenplay-Short for "Blood Bank," while Jun Aves won Best Cinematography for "Baryoke."

Bayani San Diego Jr.

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3 PINOY BLONDE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	8 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:00
4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	9 MONSTER-IN-LAW 12:25 2:50 5:15 7:40 10:00
5 NEW POLICE STORY 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	10 WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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	4 MONSTER-IN-LAW	5 THE NEW POLICE STORY	6 IF ONLY	7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 HERBIE FULLY LOADED 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30,9:50	2 FANTASTIC 4 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX FANTASTIC 4 3:20, 5:40,8:00,10:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX IF ONLY 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 FANTASTIC 4 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 WAR OF THE WORLDS 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HERBIE FULLY LOADED 1:50, 4:10, 6:30,8:50, 11:10 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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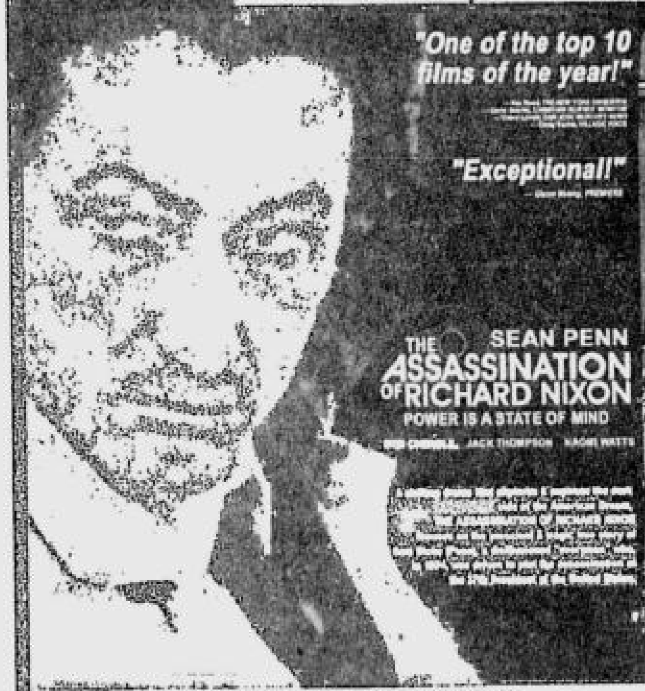
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Where in the world is 'Genghis Khan'?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE BEST prints of Filipino film classics are abroad.

In the absence of an efficient National Film Archives, our cinematic treasures have found permanent homes in France, Great Britain and the United States.

"Negatives of 1970s films by Lino Brocka and Mike de Leon are in other countries," Clodualdo "Doy" del Mundo Jr. and Vicky D. Belarmino, officers of the Society of Film Archivists (Sofia), told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Belarmino was specific: Brocka's "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang," "Maynila... Sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag," "Bayan Ko: Kapit sa Patalim" and "Orapronobis" are in the British Film Institute (BFI); also Eddie Romero's "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?" and Mike de Leon's "Itim."

Brocka's "Insiang" is in Cinémathèque Française (CF).

Costly endeavor

Belarmino, who is the secretary of Sofia and a film archivist at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), said CCP's 35mm print of Brocka's "Tatlo, Dalawa, Isa" came from the Anthology Film Archives based in the United States.

The CCP, Belarmino added, obtained its new 35mm copies of "Tinimbang..." and "Insiang" with the help of the BFI and CF, and also acquired copies of "Ganito..." and "Itim" from BFI.

These copies cost quite a sum, Sofia president Del Mundo revealed.

"When the CCP first ordered a copy of 'Tinimbang...,' we had to hurdle a lengthy process," Belarmino recounted. "You need a clearance from the local producer and from the person that deposited the film in the archives... among others."

Of course, this system was designed precisely to safeguard cinematic gems. On the bright side, the location of contemporary classics can at least be verified now.

Classic found

Searching for 1950s and older masterpieces can be more confounding.

Case in point is Manuel Conde's "Genghis Khan," which was screened at the Venice Film Festival in 1952 and released commercially throughout Europe and the US.

Two copies, dubbed in French, are in the CF, according to Del Mundo.

"But there's a copy in the original Tagalog," he noted. "An enterprising Filipino based in California bought it from an American distributor and is selling it for $10,000 to any interested party in the Philippines."

So far, no takers. Is repatriation an option?

"Well, these foreign archives may suddenly decide to return our films," Del Mundo said.

An example is 1937's "Zamboanga," starring Fernando Poe Sr. and Rosa del Rosario, which was retrieved from Finland after Mowelfund's Nick Deocampo discovered its where-

WHERE/ A2-26

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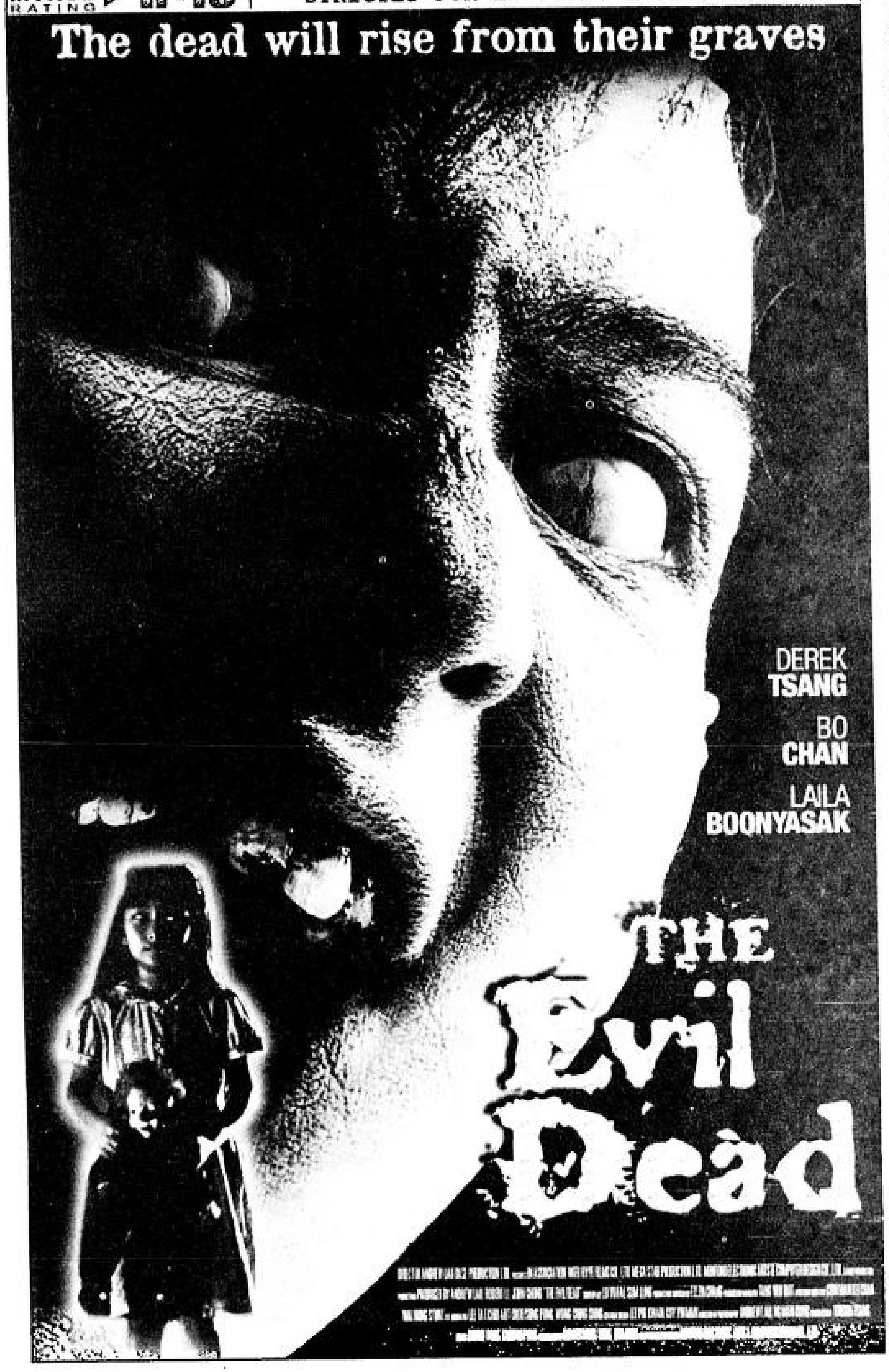
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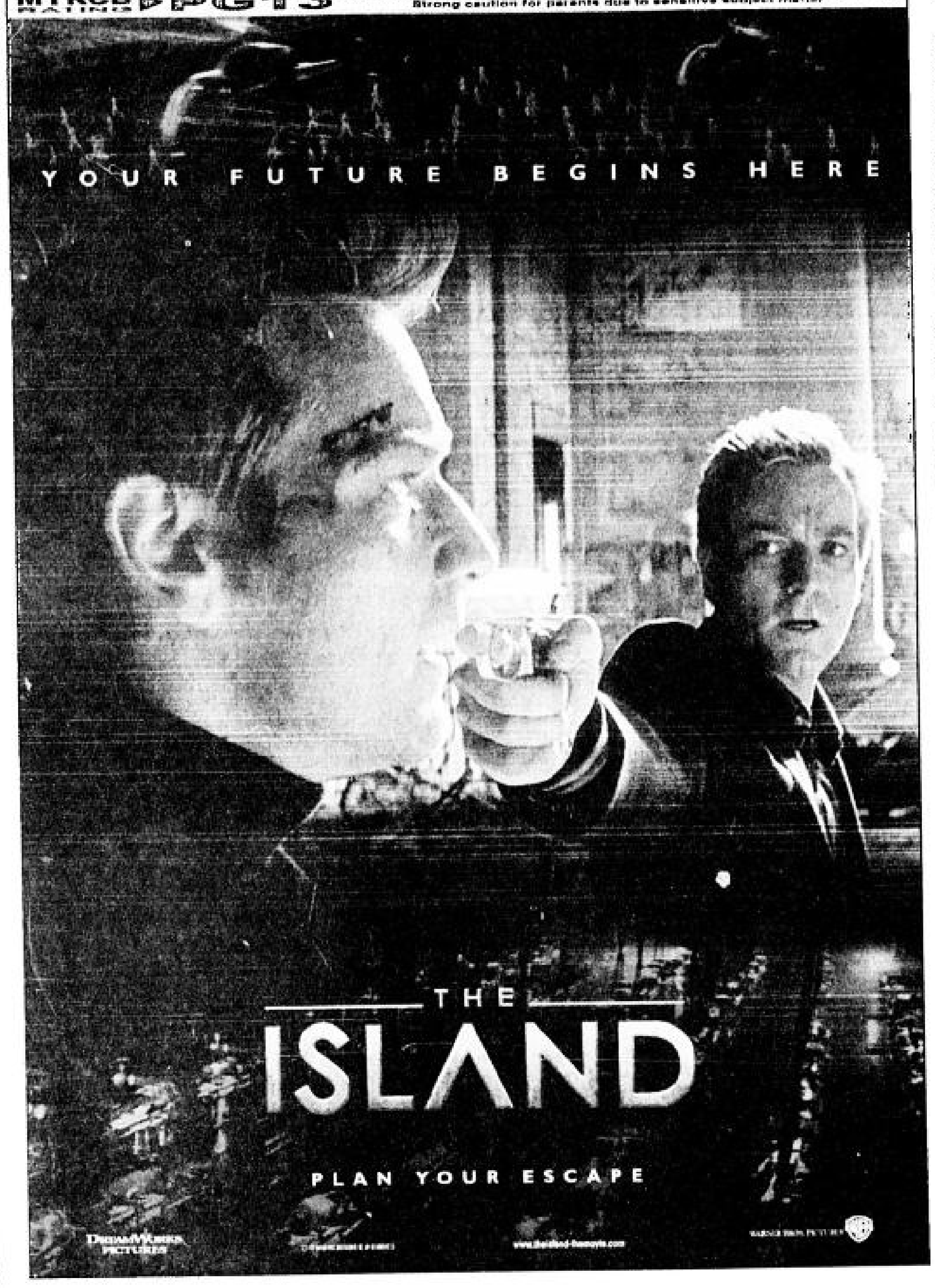
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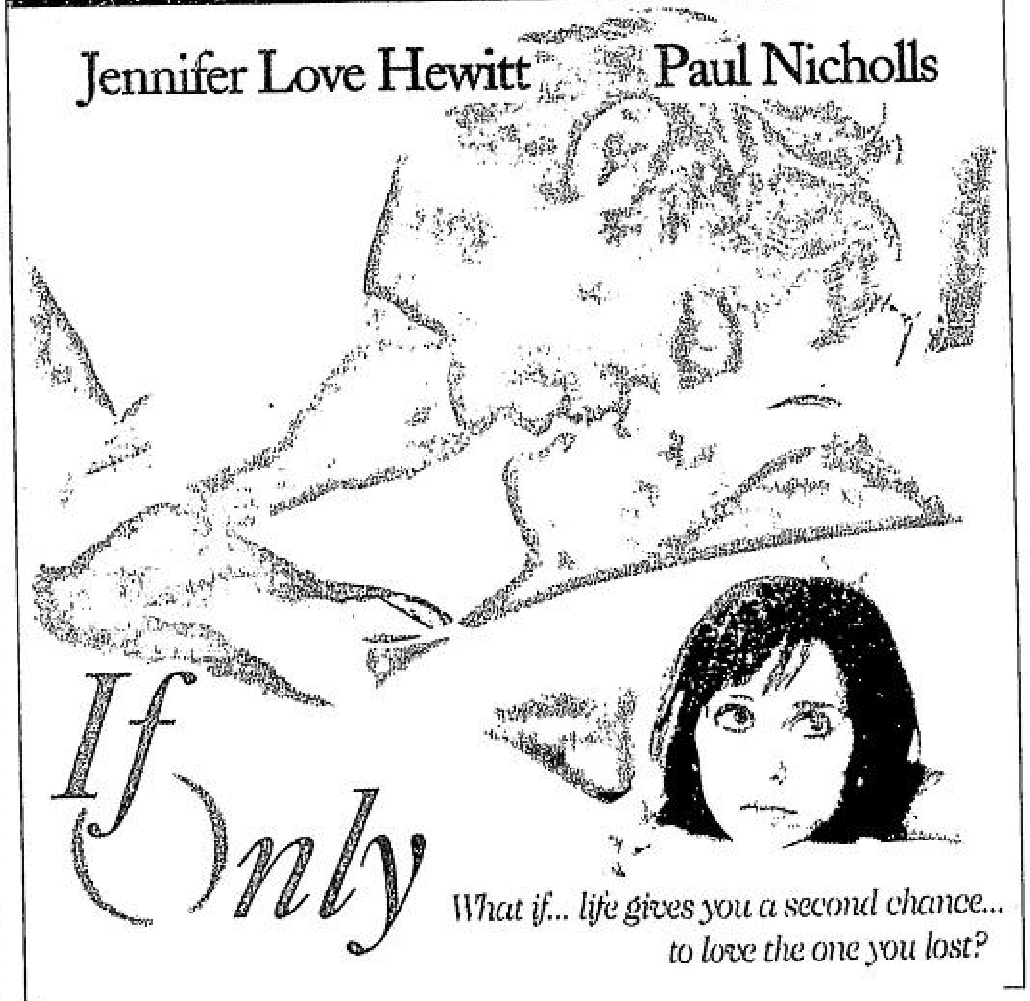
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THIS SEMESTER, SOME ANGRY SOULS ARE ALSO ENROLLED...PAPASOK KA BA SA HAUNTED SCHOOL?

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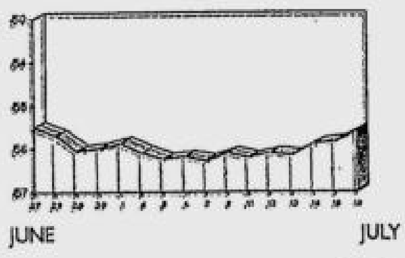

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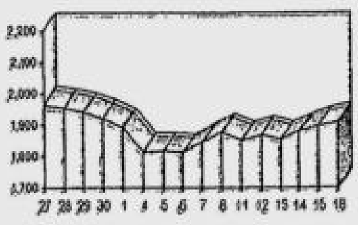
STOCK MARKET

Stocks rise on respite in political tension



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS rose for the third day yesterday as political tension eased and the government appeared to be gradually refocusing on economic reforms.

Traders also cited early indications that the Supreme Court may lift the suspension on the expanded value-added tax law, the centerpiece of the government's fiscal reform program. Second-quarter corporate earnings were also expected to be robust.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 12.17 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,909.25, its highest finish so far this month.

The broader All Shares Index finished 4.13 points up at 1,162.22 after advancing 10.90 points Friday.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which is expected to have sustained its robust earnings in the second quarter, cornered around 54 percent of total turnover, advancing 1 percent to P1,540.

Ayala Corp., which is perceived to have strong earnings prospects, gained 1.7 percent to close at P307.50.

Equitable PCI Bank, which is fending off a challenge to control of its board, declined 1.9 percent to P50.50.

Volume increased but turnover value thinned as investors started buying second-tier issues—a clear indication that investors remain cautious.

"The path ahead remains bumpy due to political uncertainties," said BPI Securities senior manager Roberto Cano.

Opposition congressmen are readying an impeachment charge against President Macapagal-Arroyo, while other groups are planning a big protest rally to coincide with her annual State of the Nation Address next Monday. *AP*

Calm on the political front encourages banks

By Michelle V. Remo

THE THREAT of a high interest rate regime eased yesterday as banks swamped the government's weekly auction of treasury bills, sending the bellwether 91-day rate plummeting by 72.1 basis points to 5.452 percent.

Traders said concerns arising from the political crisis hounding the Arroyo presidency were overtaken by optimism from the government's latest fiscal data.

The 91-day treasury bill rate had been on an uptrend since mid-June, when calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down mounted due to allegations that she cheated in last year's elections and that her family received kickbacks from the illegal numbers game *jeuteng*.

The 182-day treasury bill rate fell by 10.9 basis points to 7.431 percent as banks also bidded aggressively on the six-month debt paper. (One percentage point is equivalent to 100 basis points.)

The yield of the 364-day debt instrument inched up by 63.1 basis points to 8.482 percent, but the Bureau of Treasury said the increase was a natural result of the five consecutive weeks of failed auctions. Yesterday was the first time the Treasury accepted bids for the one-year debt note since June 14.

"Certainly the market has signaled its resolve to get back to the normal and aggressive mode. It's the fiscal position that punctuated their positive outlook," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a briefing after the auction.

The country's treasurer credited the national government's budget position, which registered a surplus of P246 million in June. It was the second after the P3.3-billion surplus recorded in April.

Cruz added that banks remained awash with cash despite the recent decision of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to raise their reserve requirements.

All maturities were oversubscribed, with the 91-day bills attracting P11.01 billion worth of bids. The 182- and 364-day bills got P7.04 billion and P5.74 billion, respectively. The government offers only P2 billion for each maturity a week.

Due to the unusually huge volume of bids for the 91-day bills, the Treasury's auction committee decided to accept P2.8 billion worth of bids, or more than the government's original debt offering.

Cruz also attributed the encouraging auction results yesterday to the market perception that the Supreme Court would soon lift the temporary restraining order on the expanded value-added tax law.

The VAT law, considered the cornerstone of the administration's agenda to fix its fiscal problem, was suspended by the high court following petitions filed by opposition lawmakers and petroleum dealers.

SSS-led bloc eyes control of EPCIB

By Doris C. Dumlao

A CORPORATE coup d' etat looms at the annual stockholders' meeting of Equitable PCI Bank today as key shareholders led by the state-owned pension funds and the Romualdez family built an alliance to wrestle majority board control from the Go family.

In a press briefing yesterday, the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System and the Romualdez family's Trans Middle-East Philippine Equities Inc. (TMEC) announced that they have mustered voting rights equivalent to 54.6 percent the bank and would therefore command majority control of the bank's 15-member board.

SSS-LED/B3

GO

DE LA PAZ

GARCIA

SY

Go family's boardroom mettle put to supreme test

By Daxim L. Lucas

(Second of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

FOR A group that owns only one-fourth of a company's shares, the Go family's success in fending off a hostile takeover of Equitable PCI Bank has had even their critics shaking their heads in grudging admiration.

"The key in all this is the bank's corporate secretary," said Reynaldo Palmiery, Equitable PCI director. He went on to explain why

GO FAMILY'S/B4

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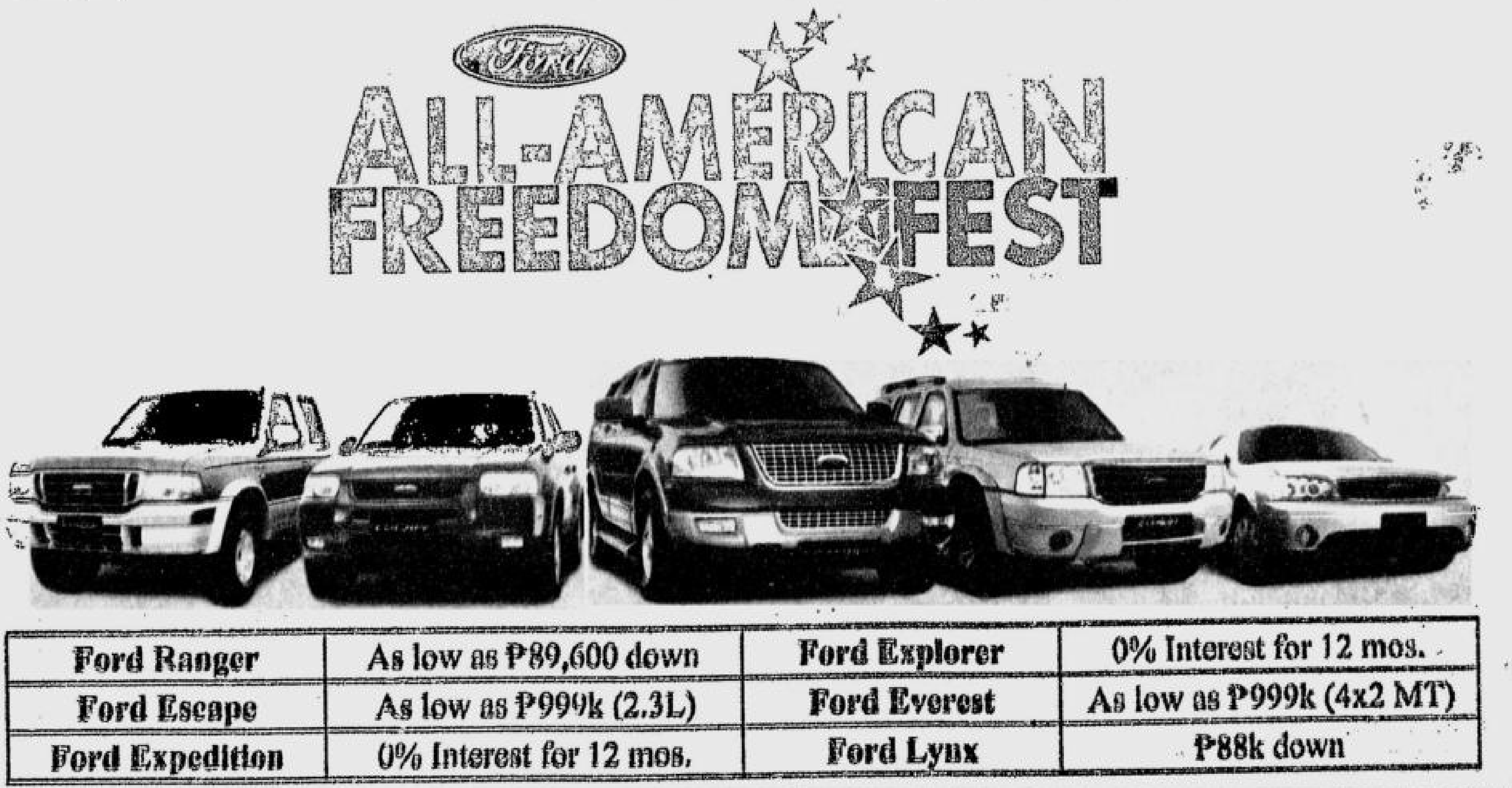

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Man's key business

QUICK, what is the best thing that ever happened in this country, aside from the transient Pinoy-style non-violent political crises, which we are having every now and then for almost 20 years now, or since the return of democracy after martial rule?

Well, as every Filipino knows, it is the banking system.

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

While everybody else in business is having a hard time, such as during an economic recession, banks always make money.

Okay, not all of them just make money. Actually, many of them make oodles and oodles of money!

That's why I am a bit puzzled by the investment of the SSS and the GSIS in this bank called Equitable PCI Bank, in an alleged "joint venture" with the Go family who, as minority stockholders, simply control the bank for our two pension funds.

As members of the SSS and the GSIS, we, the people, actually invested P16 billion of our hard-earned money in the bank. As the price of its shares in the stock market shows today, the investment has been reduced by only about half.

* * *

AND yet the Go family thinks that I, as a newsman who has been writing about their modus operandi, am to blame for the mess in Equitable PCI.

With the help of an expensive yet crude PR program, they even put out newspaper ads, obviously attempting to turn the table on newsmen like me.

Hey, I did not use P16 billion of the money of the bank!

I also did not enter into a supposed "joint venture" with the SSS and the GSIS, in which I did not put in a single cross-eyed centavo, and then hid everything in some accounting magic!

Finally, I did not keep P6.5 billion worth of "treasury shares" in the bank, and then use them to elect "independent directors" to the board, who helped me control the bank, whose shares are not doing well in the stock market!

I definitely did not have anything to do with those. The last time I checked, only the Go family did, OKAY!

* * *

OF COURSE I can understand that the Go family, somehow, must defuse the bomb hurled against them by government representatives on the Equitable PCI board.

The government is trying to wrest control of the board from the family, hoping to turn around the bank in the process, and thus at least get our money back.

That's why the Go family spent a lot of money—probably theirs and not the bank's, but you can never be sure—to put out the newspaper ads.

And they talked about ... well, a "merger."

That's the merger between the Equitable Bank, owned by the Go family, and PCI Bank, which they acquired in the suspected "joint venture" with the SSS and the GSIS.

Of course not many people understood what they talked about in the ads.

But they apparently think that everything they did in Equitable PCI was first-class business practice, because, one, each of the two banks had its own board, and, two, both boards approved the merger.

Let me see if I got it right: The Go family wanted to tell everybody that newsmen like me, before we can even think of writing about any foolishness in some investments, particularly those involving the retirement, disability and death benefit funds of millions of SSS and GSIS members, we should first check if the company actually has a board, and if the board actually approved the foolishness. Is that it?

* * *

WHO gives a hoot if all the popes, both living and dead, themselves approved the merger? The facts remain:

- One, the Go family did not put in a single centavo in their assumed joint venture with the SSS and GSIS to buy PCIBank.
- Also, they used the money of the merged bank, Equitable PCI, amounting to P16 billion, to come up with their share of the P32 billion joint-venture cash-out.
- And finally, when they could not repay the bank, they simply used some accounting magic, called "treasury shares" and "retirement of shares," apparently with board approval.

Nobody can deny that, in the deal of the Go family and the two pension funds to acquire PCIBank, somebody got P32 billion as payment.

That was cash, okay? It was not an IOU or something called swap. It was hard solid CASH into somebody's pocket! Just like that!

And some P16 billion of it came directly from the SSS and GSIS, which used our retirement, disability and death benefit funds.

Where did the other half of P16 billion come from?

Definitely, it did not come from the Go family. They simply used the money of the banks, both Equitable and PCI, which they themselves said was even approved by the boards of the banks.

That's why everything was first-class business practice, based on our interpretation of the gobbledygook in the Go family newspaper ads.

* * *

OUR SOURCES inside Equitable PCI insist that P6.7 billion of the Go family share in the P32-billion cash payment for PCIBank actually came from Equitable.

The insiders also insist that the remaining P9.5 billion came from PCIBank, which had some fat deposit accounts, possibly in dollars.

And how did the Go family hide everything in the books of the merged Equitable PCI? Well, the

BREAKTIME/ B5

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SMIC'S NEW DIRECTORS

Former Energy Secretary Vince Perez (standing, right) and Former Trade Undersecretary Gregory Domingo (standing, left) join the father-and-daughter team of Henry and Teresita Sy on the board of SM Investment Corp. Perez and Domingo were elected independent directors of the company in its first annual stockholders meeting held recently.

RUDY ESPERAS

FEE-BASED BUSINESSES

Metrobank profit up 30%

By Doris C. Dumlao

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's biggest bank, posted a first semester net income of P2.25 billion, 30 percent higher than last year's level.

The bank's performance was boosted by rising non-interest and interest earnings.

In a statement, Metrobank president Antonio Abacan Jr. said the bank's non-interest earnings—or those generated from fee-based businesses—rose by 23 percent while net interest income grew by 4 percent.

"The gains were also attributed to reduced operating expenses, which were down by 1.8 percent as of June 30, 2005," he added.

Abacan said the first semester bottomline was reached despite increased provisions during the period amounting to P1.66 billion.

Metrobank's total resources increased to P472.8 billion from P462.8 billion in the same period last year, reflecting an improvement of P10 billion or 2.2 percent.

Abacan said loans and deposits rose by 5.7 percent and 8.8 percent, respectively, from year-ago levels.

Capital funds stood at P52.7 billion as of June this year, up by 1.3 percent from P52 billion the year before. The amount was net of the P1.6 billion in cash dividends paid by Metrobank during the period.

In the meantime, Metrobank senior vice president for specialized accounts management group Cesar Lugtu said the bank would auction off P2.2 billion worth of non-performing loans (NPLs) on July 20, 2005.

"This is part of Metrobank's initiatives to trim down its NPL portfolio and to pave the way for further deals in disposing non-performing assets to improve the quality of the bank's loan portfolio," said Lugtu. He added that five foreign investors were expected to participate in the bidding.

The bank vowed to continue focusing on improving its performance despite the lingering political jitters.

"While remaining cautious, banks in the country continue to do business as usual for the benefit of our depositors, shareholders and the industry," said Abacan.

"The banking industry is hopeful that our domestic problems will be resolved soon," he added.

SSS-led bloc eyes . . .

From page B1

"With or without proxies, we therefore now constitute majority of EPCIB . We are now the majority group," said TMEC's and bank co-vice chair Martin Romualdez, who read the group's statement.

The group plans to vote 354 million shares representing combined stock and proxies, of which 187.85 million shares are owned by the SSS, 88.85 million shares by the GSIS, 51.82 million shares by TMEC and 25.56 million proxies from sympathetic minority shareholders that include the group of mall magnate Henry Sy.

The three-way alliance would reorganize EPCIBank's 15-member board and remove the incumbent chair, Antonio Go, according to Romualdez. But he assured that the planned changes would affect only the board composition and that the new majority was not contemplating any change in management control.

"The majority group assures the independent shareholders and the public in general, especially the depositors of EPCIBank, that the majority group has exhausted all means possible for an amicable settlement with the minority group (referring to the Gos)," Romualdez said.

He said the group had likewise explored all legal remedies and had in fact obtained favorable rulings from the Securities and Exchange, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the courts.

Yesterday, for instance, a temporary restraint order (TRO) was handed by the Makati Regional Trial Court against the Go family's voting of a disputed 10.8-percent stake in the bank as well any moves to postpone the stockholders' meeting.

"As all attempts for an amicable settlement have failed, the majority group is now constrained as its last recourse and only redress to take appropriate legal measures to protect, to serve and promote the best interest of EPCIBank, its shareholders, officers, employees and mostly its deposits," he said.

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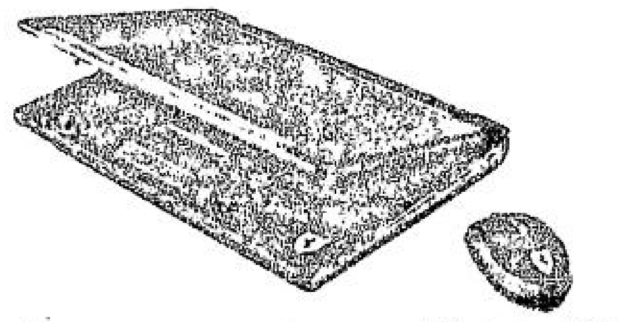

Acer, the leading notebook brand in Europe, Middle East and Africa, and the official supplier to Scuderia Ferrari recently unveiled the first notebook in the market with carbon fiber casing - the Ferrari 4000.

The Ferrari 4000 harnesses the cutting-edge technology pioneered and perfected in the world of Formula One and the aerospace industry. The advanced carbon-fiber casing of the Ferrari 4000 houses the latest AMD 64-bit technology, giving the notebook all the performance and elegance gained from the alliance between two companies renowned for pushing the boundaries of technology.

The Ferrari 4000 is based on the latest **AMD Turion™ 64 Mobile Technology** for thin and light notebooks. Its 64-bit architecture delivers leading-edge power and provides a taste of the performance gains promised by future 64-bit applications In addition, the AMD PowerNow!™ technology extends system battery life while HyperTransport™ technology radically improves overall performance.

The elegant, thin and light carbon-fiber casing, which comes in black and exclusive Ferrari-red, offers the very latest technologies aimed at mobile users. Features include a large luminous 15.4" WSXGA LCD widescreen display supported by the extra-fast ATI® MOBILITY™ RADEON® X700 graphics chipset with 128MB DDR memory on PCI Express architecture, 1GB DDR memory and 100GB HDD, as well as a DVD-Super Multi double-layer drive unit and a 5-in-1 card-reader, all managed by the powerful AMD processor, guaranteeing top performance.

What's more, it has the following technology breakthroughs such as the **Acer SignalUp Technology** for stronger connectivity and improved wireless performance by 20-40%; **Acer eManager** that simplifies hard to access controls and settings, and **Acer GridVista** that organizes your work in multi-Windows format.

The new Ferrari 4000 offers easy connection solutions through the following features: integrated Bluetooth technology, Firewire IEEE 1394 interface, 4 ultra-fast USB 2.0 ports, DVD reader/burner, S-Video out port, built-in 10/100/1000 Gigabit LAN and 56Kbps modem and a wireless bluetooth Optical Mouse.

"After almost two years of partnership and binging to life successful and innovative notebooks such as the Ferrari 3200 and 3400, Acer has designed a truly exclusive notebook this time that expresses our firm intention to stay at the forefront of innovation. It's an ambition that has always characterized both the worlds of Formula One and Information Technology," says Gianfranco Lanci, president of Acer Inc.

Adds Jean Todt, general manager of Scuderia Ferrari, "Technology is essential to the achievement of our objectives. We believe that innovation leads to constant evolution, and we are delighted that one of our official supplier has placed such importance on the research and development of advanced technological solutions."

Ferrari 4000, a unique notebook in terms of design, material, color and performance, comes from two companies, which, despite operating in completely different markets, are closely linked by their constant research to improve their products and maintain leadership.

The Ferrari 4000 will make its grand debut in the Philippine IT scene that aims to set a new standard of partnership between Axis Distribution, Inc. and Acer Philippines which will be held today July 19 at Speed Zone, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

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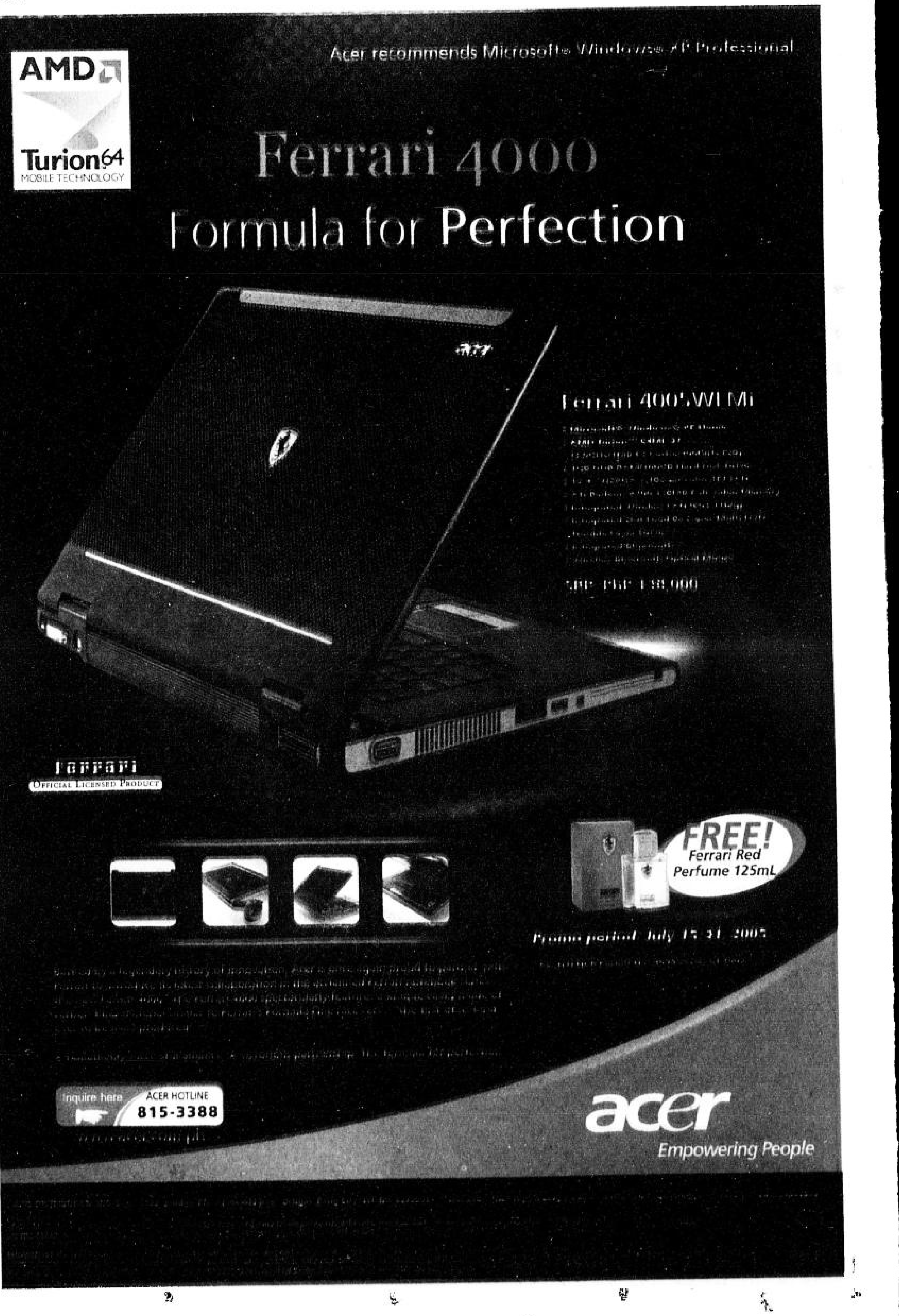

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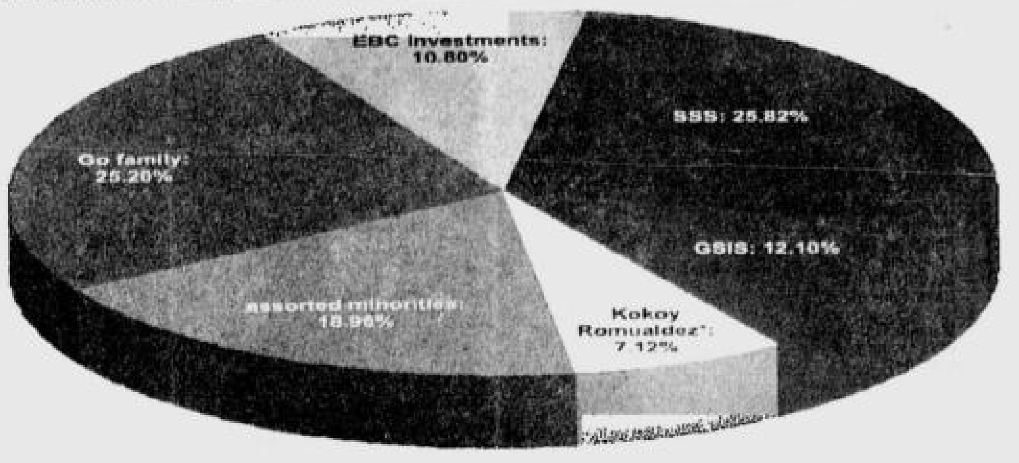

*Sequestered shares

Go family's boardroom . . .

From page B1

the bank's majority shareholders have been frustrated at almost every turn from exercising more control over their affairs.

Palmiery, who is also the executive vice president of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), believes the Go family's defense strategy hinges on Equitable PCI's corporate secretary Atty. Nilo Divina.

"First of all, he plays a big role in determining if [stockholder] proxies will be valid," Palmiery said. "This can determine if any shareholder can gather enough votes to nominate people on the board."

Equitable PCI may have to rely on this strategy to prevent the group of mall tycoon Henry Sy from gaining a foothold in the bank's board of directors.

Sy's holding firm owns only 2.5 percent of Equitable PCI shares. But it attempted during last year's annual stockholders' meeting to solicit enough proxies from other shareholders—6.67 percent is required for each seat—to nominate a representative on the bank's board.

They may try the same tactic at today's meeting, and Divina will again be crucial in protecting the tottering Go empire.

"In addition, [Divina] has a strong say in the nomination committee which the Go family also controls," Palmiery said.

Thus, Divina can disqualify any board nominee whom he feels may act against the bank's—or the Go camp's—interests.

This was what happened last year when the SSS tried to nominate personalities allied with the Sy camp as a prelude to the sale of the pension fund's holdings to the retail magnate.

Strategic ally

Were it not for the corporate secretary, Equitable PCI would by now be merged with Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank, critics claim. Divina did not return calls for this interview apart from a sparsely worded e-mail statement.

Palmiery believes that, with such a strategically placed ally, the GSIS and the Social Security System will still face a tough battle with the Gos, despite owning an overwhelming majority in terms of stocks.

Palmiery concedes that Divina can only be removed by a decision from the board of directors—which the Go family dominates—or by the action of the Securities and Exchange Commission, if he is found to be acting against the interests of the bank's stakeholders.

"The SEC can come in, but that will take time," Palmiery said.

And time is something both sides are short on.

The SSS-GSIS block, allied with the group of Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, are hoping that the Makati Regional Trial Court will issue an order barring the Go family from voting in their favor 10.8 percent in bank shares held by Equitable PCI's investment house subsidiary.

Regulators, like the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), believe that these shares should be distributed proportionately among all shareholders since they were acquired using the funds of bank depositors—an opinion the Go family will likely ignore.

The pension funds also want the court to stop anyone from postponing today's stockholders' meeting, which they feel the Go family will resort to in a bid to extend their hold on the bank.

Barring such an order, the Go family will almost certainly leverage the contested block of shares to consolidate their grip on the board or may reply on a meeting postponement.

"That's what we're trying to prevent," Palmiery said.

Converging, diverging interests

The legal battle in the courts, however, may make one tend to overlook the most important issue in this boardroom brawl—the safety of P194 billion worth depositors' money, and the control of P310 billion in assets.

According to the Institute for Corporate Directors (ICD), the core question is if the Go family is acting in the best interests of Equitable PCI's stakeholders, which includes its depositors.

If they are not, will depositors' hard-earned money be better off under a bank run by Henry Sy?

"It doesn't matter whether it's the minority or majority which controls the bank," said Jonathan John Moreno, ICD executive director. "What's important is the interest of the corporation and its stakeholders."

The ICD, which promotes corporate governance especially in the upper echelons of opaque company boards, said discerning the intentions of either camp will reveal which group is acting in the best interests of stakeholders.

"In the end, whose interests are they trying to protect?" Moreno asked.

Indeed, do the interests of the Go family jibe with the interests of the bank's stakeholders? It is not an easy question to answer.

While the Gos have guided the bank's fortunes ably since its founding 55 years ago, they have also fumbled in recent times, most notably in the wake of the Estrada impeachment trial which saw the bank lose an estimated P90 billion in deposits in a matter of weeks.

Only the intervention by financial regulators via a P30-billion emergency loan allowed it to stay afloat.

Meanwhile, Moreno also laments the conduct of board representatives and officials who vote blindly according to the orders of the nominating parties instead of acting in the firm's interests.

"One's duty [as a board member] is to the corporation and not to the nominating group," he said.

Legal vs ethical

Beyond the shareholder squabble, however, the case is now evolving into a question of legality versus ethics.

The Go family is intent on using legal and corporate maneuvering to maintain its hold on the bank. Their opponents accuse them of using the bank's resources to shore up their eroding position.

"At the ICD, we are obviously always for what is ethical," Moreno said. "Doing what is legal is only the minimum. If you use best practices, then that is ethical."

The ICD official said that, in the case of Equitable PCI and similar shareholder fights, "what is legal is not always consistent with best practice."

He revealed that former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima had instructed SSS and GSIS to approach the ICD for an opinion on the Equitable PCI issue. Purisima resigned from the Cabinet before the ICD could dig deeper into the case.

Naturally, the opposing camps both claim the moral high ground, saying they are acting in the best interests of their stakeholders, thereby clouding the issue for most casual observers.

"In the end, the Gos may even gain the upper hand, legally speaking," said one banker familiar with Equitable PCI's troubles. "But if it fails the 'stink test,' then you'll know who's right and who's wrong." *(To be continued)*

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming Bayan

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of June 27, 2005

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items	P	5,947,524,488
Due from Bangko Sentral		11,217,521,189
Due from Other Banks		1,116,263,113
Interbank Loans Receivable		26,236,180,347
Trading Account Securities (Net)		4,066,772
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		98,276,631,242
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		115,230,676,330
Underwriting Accounts (Net)		-
Equity Investments (Net)		4,887,541,995
Bank Premises, Furniture,Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		5,011,951,553
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		14,013,201,483
Others		25,144,938,219
TOTAL ASSETS	P	307,086,496,731
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	83,675,180,599
Savings Deposits		123,492,183,261
Time Deposits		30,688,425,986
Special/Other Deposits		1,124,828,114
Due to Bangko Sentral		43,381,787
Due to Banks		98,091,231
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,232,919,551
Bills Payable:		
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs		456,597,994
Interbank Borrowings		-
Deposits Substitutes		237,058,512
Others		27,182,951,942
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		4,502,405,538
Other Liabilities		11,394,183,931
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	284,128,208,446
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	10,871,000,000
Surplus		8,672,616,989
Surplus Reserves		2,854,552,221
Other Capital Accounts		560,119,075
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		22,958,288,285
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	307,086,496,731
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	4,198,638,489
Bills for Collection		650,756,099
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		12,253,348,000
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		(499,800,000)
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		
Invested In:		
- Government Securities		15,026,619,376
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks		29,959,458
- Loans and Discounts		202,399,646
- Other Assets		5,073,909,062
Accountabilities:		
- Trust and Other Fiduciary		12,156,687,393
- Common Trust Funds		2,099,734,734
- Investment/Fund Management		6,076,465,415
Other Contingent Accounts		42,617,971,310
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	79,553,801,440

OTHER INFORMATION

1.	Deposits of:		
	a. Government	P	152,685,842,004
	b. Banks		5,369,350,447
	c. Trust Department		586,474,760
2.	Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
	a. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterpises)		30.05%
	b. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)		6.68%
3.	Amount of Non-Performing Loans		11,129,295,943*
4.	Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		7.00 %
5.	Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets		49,004,160,805
6.	General Provision for Loan Losses		1,193,692,722
7.	Specific Provision for Loan Losses		16,412,312,529
8.	Return on Equity (ROE)		14.19%
9.	Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances		4,825,855,912
10.	Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		3.03%
11.	Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances		17,996

* *Includes Loans Classified as "Loss" which are fully covered by Allowance for Probable Losses amounting to P1,285,466,076.41*

I/We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and ALFONSO B. CRUZ, JR. of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C. SARMIENTO
SVP, Controllership Group

Sgd. ALFONSO B. CRUZ, JR.
SEVP, Institutional Banking and Subsidiaries Sector

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 14th day of July 2005 in the City of Manila, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 06018861, issued in Manila on January 12, 2005 and Residence Certificate No. 06179855 issued in the City of Manila on January 11, 2005.

Doc. No. 315
Page No. 65
Book No. VIII
Series of 2005

FLORENCE ROSALIND R. CLAVERIA
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2005
PTR No. 2813228
Issued on January 20, 2004
Manila

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of June 27, 2005

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items	P	5,951,358,975
Due from Bangko Sentral		11,217,521,189
Due from Other Banks		1,226,721,438
Interbank Loans Receivable		26,236,180,347
Trading Account Securities (Net)		4,066,772
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		98,279,990,077
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		115,323,364,447
Underwriting Accounts (Net)		-
Equity Investments (Net)		3,945,516,929
Bank Premises, Furniture,Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		5,235,277,124
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		14,052,751,848
Others		26,165,752,314
TOTAL ASSETS	P	307,638,501,460
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	83,639,367,638
Savings Deposits		123,477,951,699
Time Deposits		30,688,425,986
Special/Other Deposits		1,124,828,114
Due to Bangko Sentral		43,381,787
Due to Banks		98,091,231
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,236,716,681
Bills Payable:		
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs		456,597,994
Interbank Borrowings		-
Deposits Substitutes		237,058,512
Others		27,182,951,942
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		5,069,051,293
Other Liabilities		11,421,785,108
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	284,676,207,985
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	10,871,000,000
Surplus		8,676,528,739
Surplus Reserves		2,854,645,661
Other Capital Accounts		560,119,075
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		22,962,293,475
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	307,638,501,460
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	4,198,638,489
Bills for Collection		650,756,099
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		12,253,348,000
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		(499,800,000)
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		
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Other Contingent Accounts		42,617,971,310
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	79,553,801,440

OTHER INFORMATION

1.	Deposits of:		
	a. Government	P	152,685,842,004
	b. Banks		5,369,350,447
	c. Trust Department		586,474,760
2	List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries		
	a. LBP Leasing Corporation		
	b. LBP Financial Services, SPA		
	c. LBP Remittance Co., USA		

I/We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and ALFONSO B. CRUZ, JR. of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

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SEVP, Institutional Banking and Subsidiaries Sector

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Doc. No. 316
Page No. 65
Book No. VIII
Series of 2005

FLORENCE ROSALIND R. CLAVERIA
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2005
PTR No. 2813228
Issued on January 20, 2004
Manila

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CESAR V. PURISIMA
Chairman
Secretary, Dept. of Finance

MARGARITO B. TEVES
Vice Chairman

ARTHUR C. YAP
Member
Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture

RENE C. VILLA
Member
Secretary, Dept. of Land Reform

PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Member
Secretary, Dept. of Labor and Employment

ALBERT C. BALINGIT
Member
Private Sector

GEORGE J. REGALADO
Member
Private Sector

ROMEO B. TARUC
Member
Farmers' Representative

ANANIAS F. LOZA
Member
Farmers' Representative

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

MARGARITO B. TEVES
President and CEO

GILDA E. PICO
Senior Executive Vice President

ALFONSO B. CRUZ, JR.
Senior Executive Vice President

JOSE C. NOGRALES
Executive Vice President

HEAD OFFICE: 1598 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Telephone Numbers: 552-0000; 551-2200; 450-7001

www.landbank.com

MEMBER : Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (Deposits Insured up to P250,000.00)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 18, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	32	31	31	121,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49	49.5	1,388,300
China Banking Corp.	765	770	765	770	380
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	500,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51.5	51.5	50.5	50.5	261,000
International Exch. Bank	18.75	19	18.75	19	68,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27	27.5	926,500
Philippine National Bank	43.5	47	43.5	46.5	312,800
Philippine Trust Co.	60	60	60	60	100
Security Bank Corp.	26	26	26	26	18,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2760	2760	2760	2760	90
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	5,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1950	1950	1935	1935	330
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.5	14,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	844,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	835	840	835	840	4,410
Ipeople Inc.	4	4	3.7	3.75	327,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.049	2,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	36,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.65	1,862,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1535	1550	1535	1540	406,050
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	6,400,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	15	14.75	14.75	9,500
Manila Electric Co. B	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.25	883,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	5,205,000
Petron Corp.	2.95	3.05	2.95	3	969,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	18,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	129,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	350,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	4,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3	3	3	3	75,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31	31.5	31	31.5	136,100
San Miguel Pure Foods A	56	56	56	56	100
San Miguel Corp. A	60.5	61.5	60.5	61.5	83,400
San Miguel Corp. B	94	94	94	94	60,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	5,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	170,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	2,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	305	307.5	305	307.5	48,360
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	1,238,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.025	30,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.82	274,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0075	0.0065	0.007	156,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.67	0.75	0.67	0.73	2,420,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.115	330,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.04	3,534,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.23	1,130,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.34	2.34	2.3	2.3	236,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	1,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	200,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	6.4	6.7	6.4	6.6	1,277,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41	43	41	42.5	1,758,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.0775	0.075	0.0775	1,600,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1	1	1	1	180,000
Ionics Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	60,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.3	144,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	285,000
Medco Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.24	1.24	1,256,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.33	4,850,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
SM Investments Corp.	238	238	229	230	150,250
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	500,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.14	0.15	850,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	6,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.95	0.97	0.94	0.94	5,280,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	5,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.12	1.2	1.12	1.2	4,412,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.25	622,300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	9,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series CC	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	36,000
Far Eastern University	500	500	500	500	190
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.5	7.9	7.5	7.6	9,085,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	2,040,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	3,150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.38	2,260,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	1,090,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	300,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.2	4.25	4.2	4.25	3,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	70,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.1	3,225,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.007	63,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.9	5	4.9	4.95	210,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	3,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	7,660,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	43,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.021	0.019	0.021	87,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	12,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.82	0.85	0.8	0.8	890,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.92	0.92	0.88	0.88	5,130,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29.5	29.5	29	29	1,330,400
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	990,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	48,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.007	57,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	3,700,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.35	0.31	0.31	30,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	3,604,200	129,322,450.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	253,317,460	883,100,975.00
PRO	21,523,000	97,733,940.00
Mining	223,313,400	51,410,900.00
OIL	108,730,000	1,223,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	610,488,060	1,162,791,465.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	558.37	UP 2.47
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,012.85	UP 20.76
PRO	680.53	DOWN 0.68
Mining	2,650.16	UP 21.36
OIL	2.57	UP 0.02
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,162.22	UP 4.13
Composite	1,909.25	UP 12.17

NO. OF ADVANCES: 34; NO. OF DECLINES: 27; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 45; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES 106; NO. OF TRADES: 2,748

DISCLOSURES

WATERFRONT Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 3, 10 a.m., at the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 9 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

MACROASIA Corp. said that in connection to its warrants, the last day of its exercise period is July 20. Some 500 million warrants will be delisted from the official registry of the exchange on July 21. Also, the company said it elected as directors Washington Sycip, Mariano Tanenglian, Joseph Chua, Jaime Bautista, Lucio Tan Jr., George Sycip, Hans Sy and Stewart Lim.

***

MACONDRAY Plastics Inc. yesterday repurchased 5,000 of its common shares from the open market at an average price of P2.10 per share.

Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

July 18, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.830288941	1.000000	55.8600
Japan	Yen	0.0074	0.008913	0.4979
United Kingdom	Pound	1.455413	1.752900	97.9170
Hongkong	Dollar	0.106769	0.128593	7.1832
Switzerland	Franc	0.641397	0.772499	43.1518
Canada	Dollar	0.680286	0.819336	45.7681
Singapore	Dollar	0.49214	0.592733	33.1101
Australia	Dollar	0.621474	0.748503	41.8114
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.202475	2.652661	148.1776
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221387	0.266638	14.8944
Brunei	Dollar	0.490686	0.590982	33.0123
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000102	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019869	0.023930	1.3367
UAE	Dirham	0.226083	0.272294	15.2103
Euro	Euro	1	1.204400	67.2778
Argentina	Peso	0.290565	0.349956	19.5485
Brazil	REAL	0.355554	0.428229	23.9209
Denmark	Kroner	0.134024	0.161418	9.0168
India	Rupee	0.019096	0.022999	1.2847
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218509	0.263172	14.7008
Mexico	New Peso	0.078322	0.094331	5.2693
New Zealand	Dollar	0.558703	0.672902	37.5883
Norway	Kroner	0.125738	0.151439	8.4594
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013938	0.016787	0.9377
South Africa	Rand	0.125	0.150550	8.4097
Korea	Won	0.000797	0.000960	0.0536
Sweden	Kroner	0.106661	0.128462	7.1759
Syria	Pound	0.015995	0.019264	1.0761
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026	0.031314	1.7492
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000387	0.000466	0.0260

AEV, SN Power to jointly bid for Napocor hydro plants

By Abigail L. Ho

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. (AEV) and Norwegian firm SN Power Invest AS will jointly bid for and develop National Power Corp. hydroelectric assets that have been lined up for privatization.

"The partnership will leverage on the local hydro experience of AEV and the international operating experience of SN Power. It will also allow the companies to share resources and bid for more than one of the assets being privatized by Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm)," AEV senior vice president Stephen Paradies said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

AEV, through its subsidiary Hydroelectric Development Corp. (Hedcor), is the country's largest mini-hydro development firm, controlling more than P3.3 billion worth of hydropower generation assets.

Hedcor was also the first company to ever win the bidding for a Napocor asset. It won in March last year the auction for the 3.5-megawatt (MW) Talomo mini-hydro facility in Davao for $1.37 million.

Napocor's hydroelectric power facilities that have been lined up for privatization include the 100-MW Pantabangan and the 12-MW Masiway in Nueva Ecija, the 75-MW Ambuklao and the 100-MW Binga in Benguet, the 108-MW Aplaya in Misamis Oriental, the 0.8-MW Amlan in Negros Oriental, the 360-MW Magat in Isabela and the 246-MW Angat in Bulacan.

AEV has interests in power generation, power distribution, banking, food and transport operation.

SN Power is engaged in investing in, developing and operating hydropower projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The company's two founding partners, Statkraft and the Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries (Norfund), give it the necessary technical and financial backbone to develop hydropower facilities in various countries.

According to AEV's disclosure, Statkraft is Europe's second largest hydropower producer, having stakes in more than 90 percent of plants in the area with a total capacity of 12,000 MW.

Breaktime

From page B2

shares paid for with the P6.7 billion from Equitable, after some time, became "treasury shares," which the Go family used to control the bank.

The P9.5 billion worth of shares, paid for by funds of PCIBank, somehow got … well, "retired."

That means the capital of the bank was reduced by P9.5 billion. It was as if the bank bought its own shares. That should have made the shares into "treasury shares."

Under banking rules, if the shares of the company are outstanding shares, and the company acquires them, they become treasury shares.

The same rules say that the "treasury shares" must be disposed of (i.e., sold) within six months. It has been six years now!

Why did the Bangko Sentral not stop this foolishness? Why did the external auditor, the SGV itself, hide the arrangement in the annual reports? Why was nobody sent to jail?

* * *

MIND you, that P16 billion used to pay for the Go family's share in the imaginary joint venture, could have earned money for the bank.

It was lost income for the bank, and thus for the GSIS and SSS, and thus for millions of its members.

Because of the low income of the bank, its price collapsed in the stock market, cutting the market value of our investments by half.

* * *

STILL, the Go family could not have done everything without their "attack dogs" on the board.

Among them are three "independent directors," namely, former Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo, former Ambassador Cesar Bautista, and former diplomat Antonio Basilio.

Also on the board is a foreigner named Tony Conway, who actually works for Equitable Card Network, which is 90 percent owned by the bank, but which is run by the Go family like it is a backyard family owned business.

Under banking rules, foreigners cannot sit on a board of any local bank, unless they are representing foreign interest. I don't know if members of the Go family are foreigners, but I thought they were all born and bred here in the Philippines.

Also "in," as promoter of the modus operandi of the family, is the corporate secretary, a young lawyer named Nilo Divina.

He makes a lot of money as legal counsel for the bank's subsidiaries and for the Go family, in an amazing conflict of interest, and that's why the government side is planning a disbarment case against the poor guy.

Bank president Rene Buenaventura, who forgets to stay neutral as management representative to the board, also may have the same surname as that of the former Bangko Sentral governor, but it does not make him invincible to bad reputation.

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PHILIPPINE TRADE EXPO 2005 SLATED

The Philippine Trade Expo 2005 is slated on Sept. 15 to 17 in Carson Center, Los Angeles, USA. Officials of Exfair Plus Inc, organizer of the Philippine Trade Expo 2005, had a courtesy call with US Embassy Commercial Service's Brent Omdahl, commercial officer, to discuss the details of the trade expo. The project aims to expand trade, tourism and investment opportunities between the Philippines and the US market. In the photo are (from left): Cergen Go, director of Exfair Plus Inc; Joy Gador of Mindanao World Foundation; Brent Omdahl, US Embassy commercial officer; Norelyn Baniera, president of Exfair Plus Inc; and Edu Niala Jr., commercial specialist, US Embassy Commercial Service.

Honda launches pre-owned car program

AS A SERVICE to its customers and potential clients, Honda Cars Kalookan Inc (HCKI) launched its Certified Pre-Owned Car Program. This is in response to customers having bad experiences with their Honda units sourced from second-hand sellers. Tampered KM readings, LTO papers, and other "hidden" defects are just some of the problems that they encounter. According to Johnny Fetalvero, general manager of HCKI, the program was also conceptualized because they realized that there is a market that could not afford to buy a brand-new Honda but would definitely want to own one. "We have been in the industry for more than 11 years now and we have seen how durable a Honda car is," he said, This gave us confidence in going in to this program."

Each car that HCKI sell is backed by a one-year engine warranty and a KM reading accuracy guarantee. The car's registration papers are also authenticated for a hassle free buying. To further ensure quality and compliance to Honda's standards, HCKI also performs a 100-pt check to all units. Included in the 100-pt check is the conditioning of the car's engine to Honda standards. Certified Honda technicians tune and test the car to bring it close to brand new condition in terms of performance. They also perform the Honda Hydrophylic Renewal system to give paint protection, rejuvenate the interior fabric, deodorize the cabin, polish the windshield and restore the luster of the car's rubber mouldings.

On top of these, HCKI also offers a Honda VIP insurance that comes with exclusive benefits such as free towing, travel assistance and coverage of up to 10 years. Different financing packages are also available and can be adjusted to fit the customer's budget. A 24-hour 7-day a week emergency response team or what they call as their Mobile Service is also provided to assure buyers. It can be reached by dialing 0917-KC-HONDA (0917-5246632).

Fetalvero also gave some advice in buying second-hand or used cars. He stressed that the following items should be performed, checked, and validated: LTO registration and Anti- Carnapping Clearance, Honda Warranty Booklet showing the service dates Service Records from Official Honda Car Dealers, Accurate KM reading (no signs of tampering and reading is consistent with service records), Conduct Road Test to check on: Brakes, Suspension, Aircon, Acceleration and Transmission, test all control functions like: headlights, radio, wipers, etc., check body for previous repairs and put car in lifter to check under chassis for any previous heavy repairs and damages

HCKI will be very glad to conduct these tests for the customer. All he has to do is call for an appointment.

"We do this to give our buyers a peace of mind," shares Fetalvero. "Our goal is to make them enjoy owning a Honda. Our name and commitment is stamped on each sale."

And with that said, buying a pre-owned hand Honda never looked so great.

Go Family Sets the Record Straight

1) The Go Family has 5 seats in the EPCIB Board of Directors because aside from their 25.2% ownership in the bank, they have consistently been supported by proxies given by minority shareholders. This tradition of support has been present since the time of the Mr. Go Kim Pah, the original founder of Equitable PCI Bank. Therefore, the statement that it is highly anomalous that the family has five seats despite their ownership of "only 25.2%" is completely false.

2) The allegation that the Go family "did not put up a single centavo" while GSIS and SSS contributed funds to buy PCI Bank in 1999 which resulted in the merger of Equitable Bank and PCI Bank in the same year is also completely false. The Go family used their majority investment in Equitable Bank to pay for their contribution to the merger. The fact that before the merger, the family owned 55% of Equitable Bank and this subsequently declined to less than 30% after the shares of PCI Bank were swapped with those of Equitable Bank to form the merged bank which is now Equitable PCI Bank, is clear proof that the family put in adequate consideration in the same way that GSIS and SSS did.

3) While it is true that the SEC and the BSP have disqualified Mr. Roberto Romulo as a nominee for independent director of the bank, those two decisions have been appealed as there are clear justifications that Mr. Romulo has all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications of an independent director as defined in both the BSP and SEC regulations. Therefore, the allegation that the Go family, through Mr. Romulo, spearheaded and manipulated the disqualification of a number of nominees of other stockholders to ensure its control of the bank, is completely false. What the detractors of the Go family and Mr. Romulo conveniently fail to disclose is that the disqualifications, which have been upheld by the Regional Trial Court of Makati in a recent decision, applied only to nominees of another commercial bank which represents a competing interest. The disqualifications were done pursuant to the bank's By-Laws which allows the disqualification of nominees to the bank's Board of Directors who represent parties who directly compete with the business activities of the bank and its subsidiaries and affiliates. The disqualification is completely justifiable on both legal and business grounds as the bank has a right to protect itself from individuals who are allied with the bank's competitors and may divulge the bank's business plans and strategies to the detriment of the bank.

4) The allegation that the Go family wants to postpone the Stockholders' Meeting scheduled for today is also completely false. The Corporate Secretary of the bank, Atty. Nilo Divina has written both the GSIS and the SSS to categorically state that there is no plan whatsoever to postpone the meeting. This letter was published in three major newspapers last week.

5) While it is true that the Court of Appeals issued a temporary restraining order on the bank barring the Board of Directors from implementing the Amended By-Laws approved last year, it is important to clarify that all the amendments, save one, were unanimously approved by the bank's directors including those representing the SSS and GSIS. The only amendment which was carried by a majority of 9 of the 15-man Board is the provision which reduced the number of votes needed to disqualify a nominee of a competitor from 2/3 to majority fo the bank's Board of Directors. This is the reason why Sysmart, which represents a competing interest, filed for the Temporary Restraining Order so as to make it easier for them to gain a seat in the bank's Board and thus have access to the bank's plans and strategies. The statement therefore that "the TRO was sought to prevent the Go family from again packing the 15-man Board with their own nominees" is completely false.

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July 20, Wednesday
1:00 - 3:00 pm Generating Ideas for New Enterprises
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3:30 - 5:30 pm Business Plan: From Concept to Creation
Learn how to write an effective business plan that can acquire investors, recruit team members, and keep your organization on target.
6:00 - 7:30 pm Food Packaging and Labeling
Know the latest packaging products and custom-made graphics design that will give distinct product image and appeal.
July 21, Thursday
10:00 - 12:00 am How to Improve Your Business
Re-assess your entrepreneurial readiness; Identify, evaluate and select business ideas; Start and manage your own business.
1:00 - 3:00 pm Customer Relations Management
Know the importance of good customer relations and the benefits it will provide in maintaining and increasing customer clients.
3:30 - 5:00 pm Business Opportunities through Franchising
Learn about the franchising industry. Franchisors will be invited to present their franchise businesses.
5:30 - 7:00 pm Financing Programs for SMEs
Learn how to prepare business plans in a format that could be used for loan application and the available financial packages for SMEs.
July 22, Friday
10:00 - 12:00 pm How to Target Your Market
Learn the tools and techniques on how to identify right market for the right products.
1:00 - 3:00 pm Basic Pricing and Costing for Manufacturing and Retailing
Know the various costing methods and enhance your pricing and decision making skills.
3:30 - 5:00 pm Productivity Improvement through 5S
Learn about 5S in the workplace
5:30 - 7:00 pm Business Opportunity in Meat Processing
Get insights on meat presentation, technology, marketing, packaging, handling and storage; production and quality; and costing and pricing.
July 23, Saturday
10:00 - 12:00 pm Selling, Distribution and Control Management
Learn how to manage a product from distribution to selling and how to control inventory.
1:00 - 3:00 pm Butterfly Farming
Learn the butterfly farming activity and the regulation on trade of captive-bred butterfly specimens.
3:30 - 5:00 pm DOST Commercial Technologies
Know the various DOST Commercial Technology for SMEs
5:30 - 7:00 pm Integrated Business Licensing
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July 19, Tuesday
9:00 - 12:00 pm Basic Beadworks (Php 250.00)
Learn how to create fashion accessories made of chips and stones, glass, plastic bead strung in leather strips, metal wire, and strings.
1:00 - 3:00 pm Advance Beadworks (Php 300.00)
Learn how to make complicated designs of pendants, accents and bands using varied bead stringing techniques.
July 20, Wednesday
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1:30 - 4:30 pm Plate and Glass Decoration (Php 200.00)
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1. Licensed Chemical Engineer or Food Technology/Processing graduate from reputable schools.
2. At least 3 years of significant and relevant work experience in Quality Control as a Supervisor/Manager of a Food Processing Company, preferably in tuna canning.
3. Attended trainings on:
   - Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
   - Pest Control and Sanitation
   - Good Manufacturing Practice
   - Low Acid Can Food
   - Better Progress Control
   - Thermal Process
   - Double Seam

MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT

1. Registered Mechanical Engineer
2. At least 3 years of significant and relevant hands-on experience as a Supervisor/Manager in the operations and maintenance of industrial equipment and machinery; i.e., piping, pressure vessels, pumps, conveyors, hydraulic, ventilating and air conditioning system and cold storage.
3. Relevant exposure in the maintenance of CANCO 400, Continental and Angelus machines is an advantage.

Qualified candidates are invited to send their resume with recent photo, transcript of records, contact number, e-mail address to:

Human Resources Management
PO Box 308, Zamboanga City
pequitaf@mfcizam.com.ph

"Only qualified applicants shall be called for interview"

UNDP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Contracting of Consulting Services for Project ID 00014499 - Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy in the Philippines (CBRED) Project

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites local consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the subcontract on RE Database and Information Exchange Phase 2 : Development and Implementation of the project "UNDP-GEF-DOE Project ID 00014499 -Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy in the Philippines (CBRED) Project".

The CBRED Project aims to reduce the annual growth rate of greenhouse gas emissions by replacing part of the current fossil fuel use in the Philippines through the removal of major barriers to renewable energy (RE) that will lead to the development and widespread utilization of renewable energy systems / applications. Specific objectives of the project includes: (1) strengthening the capacity of relevant Government of the Philippines (GOP) agencies to formulate, enact, and implement sound new and renewable energy (NRE) policies; (2) providing NRE information for targeted audiences to build markets; (3) increasing coordination among organization concerned with NRE; (4) assisting market penetration of NRE in remote off-grid communities; and (5) improving quality of NRE technologies and systems.

The project is subdivided into six (6) components, namely: (1) RE Policy, Planning, and Institutional Capacity Building, (2) RE Market Service Institutionalisation, (3) RE Information and Promotion Services, (4) RE Initiatives Delivery and Financing Mechanisms, (5) RE Training Program, and (6) RE Technology Support.

To be able to attain said objectives, the project requires the services of subcontractors who shall undertake the subcontract on RE Database and Information Exchange Phase 2 : Development and Implementation.

> Under this component, the project seeks to address the information barriers that hinder the development and implementation of RE systems (electricity and non-electricity) projects in the country. These include technical information that are required in the conceptualization / design of potential RE projects, and market information that are necessary in evaluating the economic / financial viability of RE projects.
>
> Phase 2 of this project will involve the development and establishment of the Database and Information Exchange System and to undertake the implementation of the system designs developed in Phase 1.
>
> Scope of work of the subcontractor shall be to (a) review the design and other outputs of Phase 1; (b) develop specific institutional and business arrangements through individual Memorandum of Agreement per database keeper member; (c) collect initial data and information from the database keepers and process it for migration to the system; (d) technology selection and implementation; (e) development of an implementation plan and its execution; (f) implementation of the relational database design; (g) implementation of the RE information exchange system; (h) testing and deployment in the development server; (i) testing and deployment in the production server; (j) development and implementation of the training program on content development and system maintenance; and (k) post implementation review and evaluation.

For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PhP 1,000.00 for each Contract from the following address :

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 632 901 0273 / 901 0271
Fax No. 632 901 0200 / 889 7177

The abovementioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested participants starting 20 July 2005 to 26 July 2005 only. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, dates and other schedules for the pre-bid conference and opening of bid envelopes, as well as further details on the scope of services required.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Department of Energy. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

(PDI - July 19, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the estate of the late FELICISIMO CIEGO was extrajudicially settled with SPA on May 26, 2005 per Doc. No. 466, Page 95, Book 19, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Jesus Bongon of Pasay City.
(PDI - July 12, 19 & 26, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice Is Hereby Given

Of the Lost of Cathay Drug Inc. Prov. Receipts No. 232151 To 23200. Any Transaction Involving These Series 232198 To 23200 PR. Is Not Valid & Honored.!! No Contest Received New Certificate Will Be Issued.
(PDI July 19,2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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JOB Market ONLINE

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of AH CHIN NG who died on August 31, 2003 in Baguio City was settled by his heirs as per Extrajudicial Settlement entered as Document Number 282, Page Number 57, Book No. XI, Series of 2003 of the Notarial Registry of Atty. Mia Joy C. Oallares-Cawed.

(PDI–July 19, 26 & Aug 2, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Operating metal fabrication company with more than 30 products lines on Housewares, Organizer Racks, Home and Office furnishings sold at appliance and department stores nationawide is inviting investors to take over and continue the bussiness with assets of P20M pesos. Please call 6453426; 6454681; 09178969535

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P/F up to P20K/mo. 3762642 to 43

RTW Consign 09178830002

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

AUDIOTECH, ELECTRICIAN, TRAINEE Tel. 668-1806 / 48

BSP•BSN•PT•MT

Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8926828

CAREGIVER 5280730

JAVA/ORACLE PROGRAMMERS SEND RESUME TO BONG @PINOYDOLYAR.COM

NURSE, AGRICULTURAL ENG., INTERNATIONAL COOK, FOREMAN LANDSCAPER 4981172,4981661, 0920-6262141

WANTED MESSENGERS ACCTG CLERKS COMP. TECHNICIAN MAIL RESUME TO TITANIUM AT 340 DR FERNANDEZ ST. MANDALUYONG CITY

FEMALE

Service Crew 0927-7245708

Wanted: Hotel and restaurant graduate to manage and supervise 16 staff. FEMALE only. Live-in, safe Makati village. References required. NBI clearance, local references. Contact Fely Padilla, 867-4212

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Request for Submission of Applications

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM), a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under contract number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 and implemented by a consortium led by Chemonics International Inc., is soliciting applications from qualified non-government and/or private sector organizations for the:

Launch of Workplace Family Planning Excellence Award
RFA number : 2005-01-02

Grant funding will be provided to a successful applicant in accordance with standard USAID policies.

This solicitation is open to non-government organizations as well as private sector for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. Specific eligibility requirements are indicated in the Request for Application (RFA) document.

Applicants interested in getting the full details of this solicitation can download the full document in PDF format from the PRISM Grants Yahoo Group (http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/PRISMGrants/)

The closing date for the submission of applications is on August 17, 2005 at 5 pm.

Grant Applicants' Conference is scheduled on July 29, 2005 at 10 am.The Conference will be held at the PRISM office located at 23/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, F. Ortigas Ave (formerly Emerald Avenue), Ortigas Center.

Telephone inquiries regarding the solicitation will not be entertained. For questions please email Ces Pangilinan, Senior Grants Manager at email address: grants@prism.org.ph

(PDI - July 19, 2005)

Canadian company **AEBC Internet Corp.** is expanding its business, and now hiring full-time staff for its new Metro Manila 24/7 Sales and Technical Support call center. Please send your resume and desired position to **jobs@aebc.com**

Manager of Customer Solutions:

is responsible for managing one or more teams of customer solutions personnel. He/she will ensure that clients and consumers receive world-class service through effective operations management and focus on the development of excellent people and processes and continual improvements in performance and productivity.

Skills/Qualifications:

* Speaking English a must, and Chinese optional (Cantonese and Mandarin)
* 3-5 years management experience in a customer service environment, preferably in a telephone, Internet and/or email contact center.

Technical Support:

is responsible for resolving customer Internet or VoIP technical problems. You must have strong customer service skills, good knowledge of all Windows operating systems, dial up networking, modem/VoIP troubleshooting.

Skills/Qualifications:

* Speaking English a must, and Chinese optional (Cantonese and Mandarin)
* 3-5 years technical support experience in ISP environment

Client Service Account Manager:

is responsible for training and supporting of client subscribers to our ISP/VoIP platform. You are responsible for our first line client sales, billing and support. The ideal candidate will have previous experience working with technology.

Skills/Qualifications:

* Speaking English a must, and Chinese optional (Cantonese and Mandarin)
* 3-5 years Client Service Account Manager experience in ISP environment

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TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

Name of Project : **TECHNICAL EDUCATION & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**
Brief Description of Goods : **Various Training and Testing Equipment (NDFTES-01)**
Loan Number : **NDF Credit - 331**

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a credit from Nordic Development Fund (NDF) towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP) being carried out by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It intends to apply this credit for payments under the contract for **Nine (9) Bid Lots for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Training/Testing Equipment to identified TESDP Beneficiary Institutions.**
2. The **Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **Training & Testing Packages for Various Occupational Sectors, with an Aggregate Project Cost of Approximately Five Million Seven Hundred Fourteen Thousand U.S. Dollars (US Dollars 5.714 Million)**. Delivery of the Goods to the TESDP institutional sites shall be one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from date of contract signing. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in section II of the **Bidding Documents, ITB.**
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", to the extent consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures as defined in *"Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans"*, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from The Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee of TESDA Central Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday) starting July 20, 2005.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents (in hard and soft copies) may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of P2,500.00 or its equivalent in US Dollars. The method of payment will be in cash or check payable to TESDA, said payment to be acknowledged through an official government receipt (O.R.). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The TESDA Bids and Awards Committee will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on August 12, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the address given below.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m., August 24, 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, cashier or certified check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount equivalent to 1% of the total bid price and Bank Guarantee in the amount equivalent to 1.5% of the bid price payable to TESDA or an equivalent amount in freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be held on August 24, 2005 at 10:00 a.m., at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who chose to attend.
9. TESDA will be employing a single-stage, three envelope system of bidding, with Envelop No. 1 containing the Bidder's Eligibility requirements, Envelope No. 2 the Technical requirements and Envelop No. 3, the Bid Price. The Eligibility requirements and the Bidding Forms will be specified in the ITB and the Bidding Documents.
10. TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
SANTIAGO M. YABUT, JR.
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee
(Deputy Director General, FO)
TESDA Complex, TESDA Administration Building
East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 817-4076 to 80 and 888-5798
Fax No.: 817-9040
E-mail: psd_ocsa@tesda.gov.ph
Website: www.tesda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **SANTIAGO M. YABUT, JR.**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 19 & 26. 2005)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

DESK EDITORS

Qualifications:

- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilities:

- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

RESEARCH SECTION HEAD

Qualifications:

- College graduate
- 2 years experience in related or similar job
- 2 years management experience
- Computer skills (Windows, Word, Netscape, Explorer, Excel, Corel Draw, Powerpoint)
- Interpersonal Management / Team Building skills, analytical skills, follow through skills
- Familiar with publishing industry

Responsibilities:

- Supervises the day to day operations of the Research Section by overseeing the gathering of statistics, reports, backgrounds and other reference materials requested by the Editorial and the writing of special reports and packaged information for publication

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Responsibilities:

- College graduate preferably Fine Arts
- With background in Computer, Photoshop, Pagemaker, CorelDraw
- Knowledgeable in manual and computer based illustration, page design and artwork skills
- 1 year experience as Graphic Artist

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- At least 2 years experience in recruitment and selection
- Familiar with psychological tests
- Knows how to use office software
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

Responsibilities:

- To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR Information System

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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- **Administrative Assistant**
  College or University graduate
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  Good communication skill
- **Network Control Engineer**
  College or University graduate
  PC device trouble shooting ability
  Network equipments maintenance knowledge required
  Familiar with TCP/IP
  MCSE, CCNA, RHCE License will be a plus
- **Database System Analyst**
  College or University graduate
  Hands-on good skill in SA Database access, MSSQL, MYSQL
  Candidates must be experienced with designs of computer process
  Strong analytical skill
- **On-line Sales & Marketing Representative**
  College or University graduate
  Good command of English
  Basic computer operation skill required
  Experience in consumer goods in multinational company will be a plus
  Strong Sales skill
  Organized and independent worker who has a great team spirit

Interested and qualified applicants will be interviewed by Mr. Steve in office from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Please send up-to-date resumé in English with latest photo to e-mail: Steed@twnese.com and Copy to E-Mail: esteken@yahoo.com.tw

Address: Unit 23-B of Chatham House Condominium, Herrera corner Valero, Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. No 843-5377

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-028(2)	Two (2) Years Lease Rental of Thirty Three (33) units Brand New Copier Machine for LBP-HO Units with estimated minimum volume of 5,000 copies/unit/month	P 2,197,800.00	LBP Funds
2005-183	Various Forms for Printing	5,191,590.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on **August 3, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.** and the Bid documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for each ITB.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **July 21, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI–July 13 & 19, 2005)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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897-8808 loc. 514, 516
899-4425, 897-2535
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CUBAO
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MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361
811-4370

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528-0213, 527-3342

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635-0219, 635-0220

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8978808 Loc. 243

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

DR. MANUEL ROMULO EUGENIO

Former Commissioner Philippine Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC)
(Now Nuclear Research Institute)
Former Director Science Education Institute (DOST)
Died Saturday, July 16, 2005
1929 - 2005

His loving wife **Aida Davila**; his children **Ma. Luisa Piedad** and **Ron**; **Alfredo II** and wife **Tess Librea**, **Cindy** and husband **Sebastian Francisco**, **Enrico** and **John**, and **Regina**, sister **Ampy Eugenio Santos** and **J.P. Santos** and brother **Louie Eugenio**
Request the pious reader to pray for his soul.

His body lies in state at the Hope Chapel, Don Bosco Church,
Pasong Tamo, Makati City.

NECROLOGICAL SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT THE
NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE AUDITORIUM
Commonwealth Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Wednesday, July 20, 2005 - 10:00 a.m.
Eucharistic Celebration will start the Ceremonies.

"For God
so loved the
world, that
He gave His
only begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes in
Him shall
not perish
but have
everlasting
life."
John 3:16

ELSA PUZON-YANG

Died peacefully on July 18, 2005 at the age of 76.

Her loving husband Florencio Yang (†); only child Deborah Yang-Sia and son-in-law Ernie Sia; nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to Candon, Ilocos Sur on Wednesday night, July 20, 2005.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 23, 2005 at Candon, Ilocos Sur.

DEATH NOTICE

EDILBERTO F. FETALVERO

Passed away on July 15, 2005 at the age of 68.

His remains lie in state at the Eric Santiago Memorial Chapel, Concepcion, Marikina City, and will be transferred in Marinduque on July 20, 2005.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 23, 2005 at his province in Marinduque.

*"The Lord is my Shepherd,
There is nothing I shall want."* **Ps 23**

ADRIANA "DIANA" JOSON-CRUZ VILLAROSA

*Peacefully joined our Lord
at the age of 80 on July 17, 2005*

Her bereaved husband **Lazaro "Loy" S. Villarosa**; children **Judge Joselito C. Villarosa** & Family, **Mr. Lazaro Jr. C. Villarosa** & Family, **Dr. Albert C. Villarosa** & Family and **Nadia Villarosa Dy** & Family and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City until Thursday, July 21, 2005. Body will be transferred at 8 a.m. on the same day to Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel, Mabini St., Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 24, 2005 at the Old Cemetery after the 8 a.m. Mass at the Perpetual Help Chapel, Mabini St., Cabanatuan City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate; ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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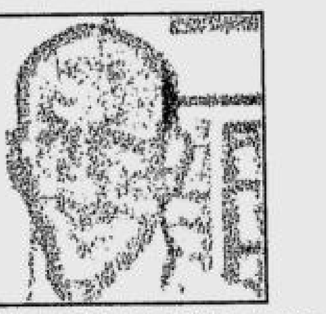
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



This is to inform the public that **STEVE JESSIE,** shown above, is no longer employed or connected with LUX MARKETING INC. (Formerly ELECTROLUX MARKETING INC.) or any of its branches nationwide. Mr. STEVE JESSIE has a pending criminal case for *Estafa* and has a standing Warrant of Arrest issued by the Municipal Trial Court of Dasmariñas, Cavite under *Criminal Case No. 03-1854.* The company shall not honor any transaction entered into by this individual with reference to LUX MARKETING INC. For your service requirements you can call the following telephone numbers 8128157/8154779/8189032 or e-mail LUX Service at service@luxphil.com.ph.

(PDI--July 19, 2005)

TOTAL DEVELOPMENT MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE LAUNCHED

Total Development Multi-purpose Cooperative (TotalDev) was recently launched with simple ceremonies held at the Penthouse of Manila Bank Building in Ayala Avenue, Makati City. TotalDev, duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), is composed of self-employed professionals and workers from diverse fields who bonded together to make a difference in the world of work and in the community. Shown during the marker unveiling rites are Cooperative Union of the Philippines (CUP) Secretary General Felix "Lex" Borja and TotalDev Chairman Dionisio C. Buhay and National Development Corp. General Manager Ofelia V. Bulaong, 10th, 11th and 12th from left, respectively. Others in photos are TotalDev's directors and cooperators, (from left) Saturnino J. Galang Jr., Remedios G. Caparas, Rey Divino C. Buhay, Johannes Kristan G. Buhay Virgilio V. Hernandez, Dave Bernardo M. Legislador II, Enrique P. Arboleda, Felix Natividad, Teresita M. Legislador, Theresa G. Buhay, Ana Emilia Ruby B. Palma, Francisco D. Caballero Jr., Ignacio "Iñaki" A. Manipula, Valeriana Aliga, Apolinario L. Posio and Rolando M. Palma. Not in photo are Irene Guellermo and Thaddeus Venturanza.

ONLINE

www.henrybutcher.com

On the instructions of Fastech Synergy Philippines, Inc.

ONLINE AUCTION

SURPLUS FUNCTIONAL/NON-FUNCTIONAL SEMICONDUCTOR ASSEMBLY; AND SURFACE MOUNT EQUIPMENT

At.: Fastech Manufacturing Complex, West Road cor. Ampere Street, Light Industry & Science Park 1, Cabuyao, Laguna

Sale Closes: Friday, 22 July 2005 - 6:00pm

FUNCTIONAL - (3) DISCO DAD 321 Automatic Dicing Saws (2-2000; 1-1997); (2) ASM AD 809E Die Attach Machine; TSM LTM-102 Laser Marker; SILLNER AGI Tape & Reel Machine; TESEL 786HT Test Handler; REDDISH SM3000CXE Convection Oven; (6) Asstd. SUNGWOO Cavity Molds
NON-FUNCTIONAL - (2) DISCO DAD 321 Automatic Dicing Saws (1999); TOSHIBA FED-1600 FAM Die Attach Machine; ASM AB 509A-06 Wire Bonder; TSM TDB-500/TDB-130 Die Attach Machines; YAMAHA YV100-2 Pick & Place Mounter; GEMWELL Capping Machine; BAASEL SMP65 Laser Marker; Machine; DISCO DFM-M150 Manual Wafer Mounter;
FOR PARTS/SCRAP - (3) ALPHASEM DB608-PRL Die Attach Machine; (6) K&S 1482 Wire Bonders; (3) KRAS/LAUFFER Mold Presses; (3) DISCO DAP-2H/6T Automatic Dicing Saws

Viewing: Strictly by Appointment
To register please visit our website: www.henrybutcher.com
For further information please contact Mags Calderon-Alicante at
Tel: 852 2910 loc. 111 Email: mags.calderon@henrybutcher.com

GoIndustry Henry Butcher
HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC
Rm 102 Jolliland Bldg., 670 Edsa, Pasay City, Phils
Tel No +63 2 852 2910 * 11 / 854 4917 19
Fax No +63 2 831 9507
E-mail manila@henrybutcher.com

ONLINE

www.henrybutcher.com

ONLINE AUCTION

LABORATORY EQUIPMENT

At: Pasay City, Philippines
Sale Closes: Thursday, 21 July 2005 - 6:00pm

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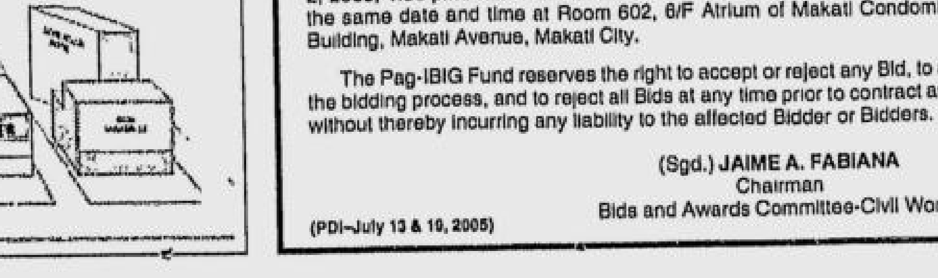

Pag-IBIG Fund
The Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, City of Makati

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

THE RENOVATION OF PUBLIC TOILETS AT THE ATRIUM OF MAKATI CONDOMINIUM BUILDING

The Pag-IBIG Fund, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Civil Works (BAC-CW) intends to apply the sum of P14,641,464.25 being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Renovation of public toilets at the Atrium of Makati Condominium Building. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Pag-IBIG Fund now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Renovation of public toilets at the Atrium of Makati Condominium Building. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before 5:00 p.m. of August 2, 2005 to the BAC-CW Secretariat at Room 704, 7/F Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. The BAC-CW Secretariat will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms, upon their submission of the LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to the Pag-IBIG Fund Cashier. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: 1:30 p.m. of August 8, 2005 at Room 602, 6/F, Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Pag-IBIG Fund and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on August 16-18, 2005.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC-CW Secretariat and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of P2,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before 5:00 p.m. of August 18, 2005.

The Pag-IBIG Fund will hold a Pre-Bid Conference (for eligibility) at 1:30 p.m. of July 27, 2005 and another Pre-bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders at 1:30 p.m. of August 19, 2005 at the following address: Room 602, 6/F Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at Room 704, 7/F Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City on or before September 2, 2005, 1:30 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on the same date and time at Room 602, 6/F Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **JAIME A. FABIANA**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee-Civil Works

(PDI--July 13 & 19, 2005)

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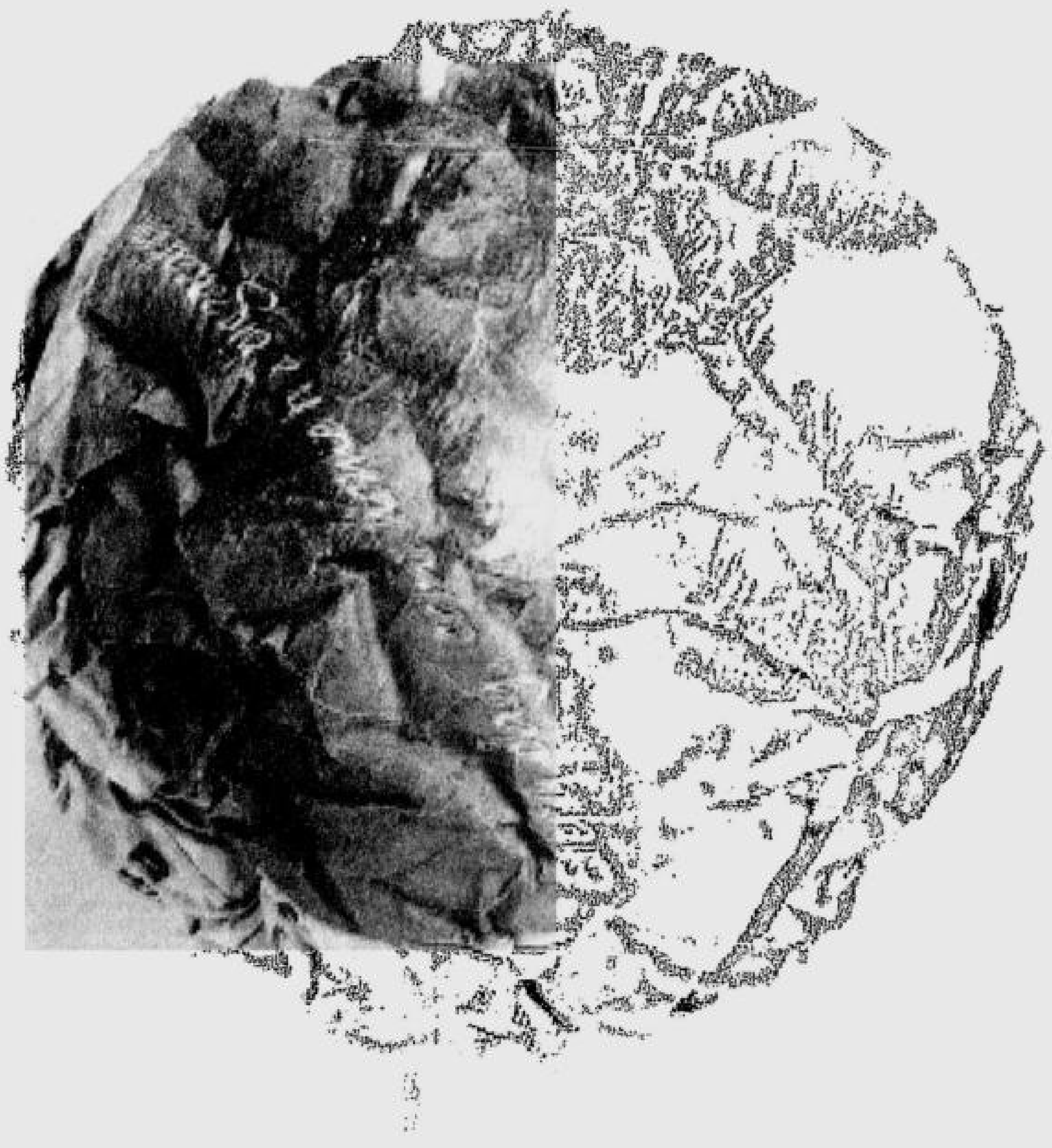

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ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Accept your body

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

DON'T you just hate it when a friend you haven't seen in a long time makes a negative comment about your body? You don't feel so good about seeing them, do you?

It's unfortunate but we, Filipinos, have this ugly and politically incorrect habit of making all kinds of comments about other people's bodies. And it's not just people close to you who do it. Even your hairdresser or manicurist feel she has the right to say things about your body.

It's bad enough when other people are vocal about how you look. It is worse when you yourself make negative statements about your body. That's right—you can be your worst enemy. Far too many of us say awful things about various parts of our own anatomy. This can be just as damaging to our self-esteem as when someone else does it.

You shouldn't allow other people to make hurtful comments about your physical appearance but neither should you let yourself do the same thing. We cannot always control what other people do but we definitely have control over what we do.

Marriages can end up in separation and divorce but, for better or for worse, we are stuck with our bodies "till death do us part." It's the only one we will have in this life and that's why we should cherish, respect and love it. This means giving it nutritious food and regular exercise. It also means accepting whatever "flaws" it has that you cannot change or that would require a drastic change in your lifestyle, if you want to be rid of them, that you couldn't live a normal life anymore.

Grin and bear it

There is nothing wrong with cosmetic surgery or dermatologic treatments and exercise programs to correct those flaws. But, let's face it, there are some things that you just cannot change, like your height, the width of your hip bones and your basic body type. So, at some point, you will have to accept and love your body the way it is. Not just grudgingly but cheerfully.

Here are some practical tips to start a love affair with your body, no matter what its shape is right now.

- Make a list of what you like about your body and what you don't like. Everyone's physical appearance has strengths and weaknesses. Your

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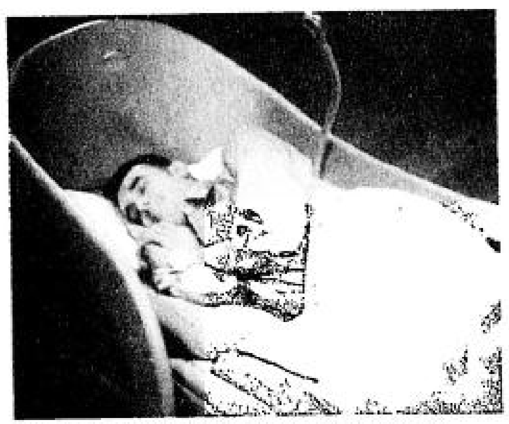
KEREN Pascual's Famous 9 group in front of the Athens Panathenaic Stadium

Olympian search for Kris' co-star

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system



GULF Air's fabulous Sky Bed in first and business classes. The first class section also has qualified chefs to serve passengers.

IN SEARCH of a Greek Adonis, the country's mega fashion retail magnate, brilliant **Ben Chan**, brought a glamorous group of Cosmo Manille trend-setters to beautiful, historic Athens and to the playground of the world's jet-setters, the postcard-pretty sunny Greek island of Mykonos.

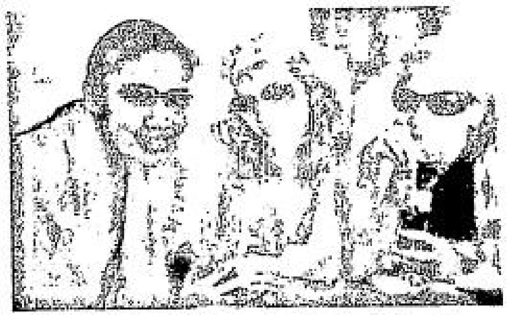
World-class photographer **Jun de Leon** photographed and filmed the dazzling, vivacious, adorable, brilliant actress and television star, **Kris Aquino**, no less, for giant billboards where she will no doubt sizzle with her new sultry image.

Making this dream promo package a reality for Bench, Human and Greyhound, was none other than the cybersmart young prince of PRs, Mr. Charmer himself, **Keren Pascual**, who brought his Famous 9 globe-trotting group, *palanggas*.

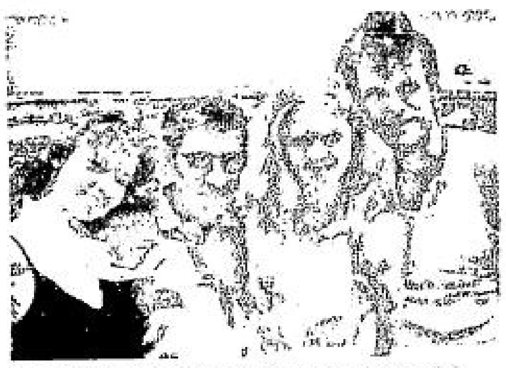
From Manille, we boarded the Middle Eastern world-class airline that "color our skies," cool Gulf Air, whose Philippine acting manager, **Robert A. Hukom**, escorted us to our real comfy business-class seats for the eight-hour direct flight to bustling Bahrain.

Once airborne, the fantastic crew of Gulf Air not only takes care of you, they pamper you with their excellent service and courteousness! And would you believe? The airline even has a sky chef that makes sure only the best meals are served!

The meals were definitely the best, with five main courses to choose from. We couldn't wait for dinner to be served, but **Kris Aquino** changed into something comfortable, said her goodnight to all of us, and went straight to sleep. For Kris, sleep is as important as her work.



THE GALS at the Venezia Seafood Resto in Mykonos. Beia Formoso, Nicolette Bell and Donna Cuna-Pita



NICOLETTE with *moi*, 18-year-old Danish beauty Alexandria and Evo

One-of-a-kind

We had a couple of hours stopover in Bahrain, where we stretched our legs and snoozed in Gulf Air's ultra-luxurious Business Lounge. This is a one-of-a-kind lounge, making you wish you can stay. The design is simply world-class and the amenities mind-boggling, *palanggas*.

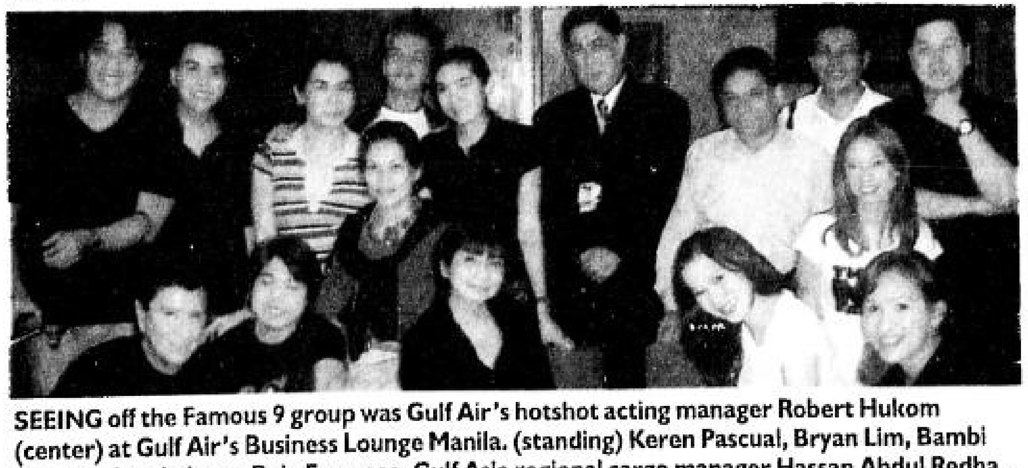
After a four-hour flight we landed at Athens International Airport. It was horrific going through Immigration with only three officers processing arrivals and planes coming in from all parts of the world. I hate to think what it would be like in the peak of summer. Anyway, the immigration officer asked Kris if she was the daughter of **Cory**. When she said yes, he gave her a big flirtatious smile and stamped her passport. Before you could bat an eyelash, she was out before any of us.

After dropping off our luggage at our fab Grecotel City Hotel on Constitution Square, which Keren chose on his ocular trip earlier, we were off to tour the sights including the Temple of Zeur, built by Hadrian. Originally it had 104 Corinthian marble columns but only 16 remain today, 13 standing under their architraves.

Next, was the Panathenaic Stadium that sat 70,000 spectators. Built in 4th century BC, it was completely restored in time for the Olympic Games of 1896. Here one of our top in-demand models, **Nicolette Bell**, was photographed by ace lensman Jun de Leon wearing a cool Kashieca and HerBench outfit. Then we went to other well-known monuments and ruins of the city, ending up at the must-go-to Acropolis, where the view of the whole city was absolutely breathtaking, *palanggas*.

THE SUPER Gulf Air crew consisted of Sally Eletriby, Imelda Sirait, Merlinda Molano, Alzira Rego, Omran Nader, and our very own Rosalind de los Reyes, Brigitte Waring and Tan Bonnie

CINDERELLA gals Therese and Marielle Santos



SEEING off the Famous 9 group was Gulf Air's hotshot acting manager Robert Hukom (center) at Gulf Air's Business Lounge Manila. (standing) Keren Pascual, Bryan Lim, Bambi Fuentes, Jun de Leon, Beia Formoso, Gulf Asia regional cargo manager Hassan Abdul Redha, Robert Mananquil and Ben Chan; (seated) *moi*, architect Miguel Pastor, Liza Ilarde C., Millet Mananquil, Kris Aquino, Nicolette Bell and Donna Cuna-Pita

Gorgeous mob

Back at the hotel, we were mobbed at the lobby by tons of body-beautiful models with the most gorgeous faces from every corner of the globe, sent by different modeling agencies for interviews with Ben Chan, Keren Pascual (he placed an ad in different Greek papers inviting models for interviews when he was in Athens two months earlier), architect **Miguel Pastor**, and Kris Aquino, *natch*!, who had a big say on who she wanted as co-models for the latest wow Bench billboard and poster ads that would be out sooner than soon.

It wasn't easy making a choice from so many drop-dead gorgeous models but, in the end, the chosen ones were **Evo**, a tall 27-year-young Slovakian; a 23-year-young good-looking German named **Max**; and the stunningly beautiful 18-year-young **Alexandria** from Denmark.

That evening, Ben treated us to dinner at the swinging, super fun area of the city, the Plaka, where the narrow streets had preserved their local color, with its popular tavernas, loads of restaurants, clubs and bars, where Athenians and tourists alike had a blast all night long.

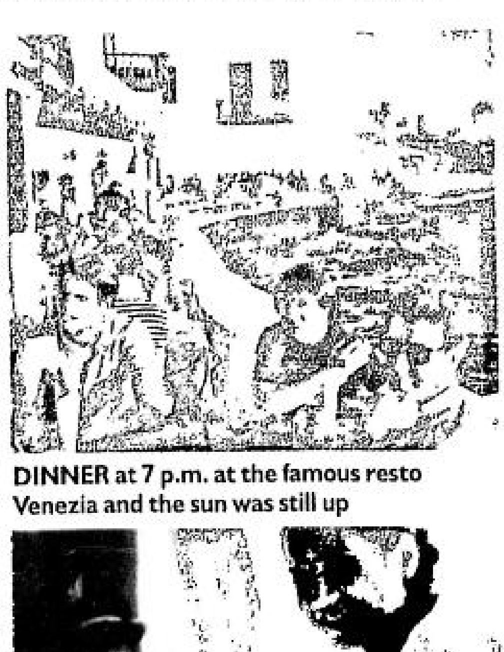
White mushrooms

Next morning at 6, the gang was off to the port of Piraeus, connected to Athens by miles of suburbia with houses rising up like white mushrooms. The harbor was bustling with ships and hydrofoils. Yachts filled the Royal Yacht Club at the lower side of the harbor.

We took the one-hour hydrofoil ride to the fabulous so "in" island of Mykonos, where Kris and the chosen models were to shoot for a whole day for Bench, together with Nicolette and Alexandria who did eye-catching fashion photo shoots for Kashieca and HerBench with Mega's talented Liza with an "L" Ilarde styling the gals.

Photo sessions started at 7 a.m. right at our beautiful, quaint Semely Hotel, with a cool pool and a fantastic view all the way to the emerald blue Mediterranean sea.

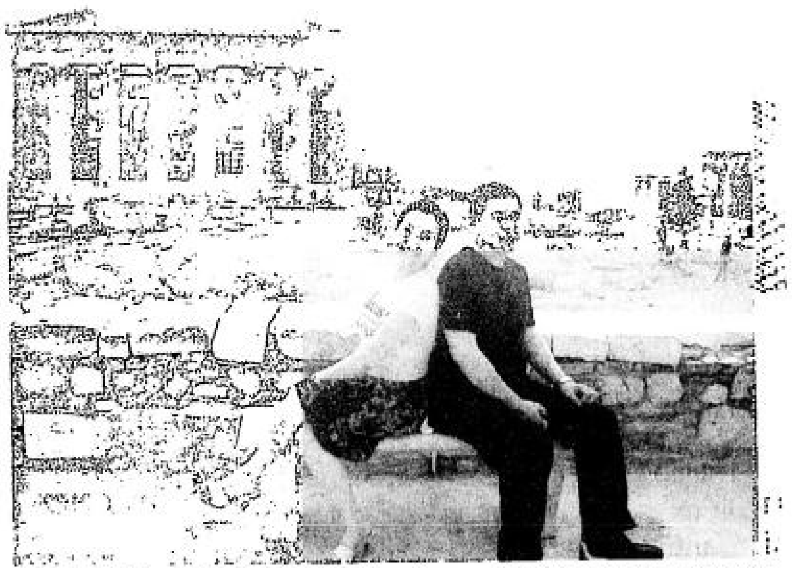
And guess who was there? None other than Cinderella's own Cinderella gals, **Therese Santos Coronel** and her daughter, vivacious **Marielle**, who jetted in from Milan where Marielle checked out that fashionable city, a day before we arrived. The following day, mother and daughter flew to the Bordeaux region to attend a grand bash of **Estrella Linch**, who was a Manille visitor not so long ago.



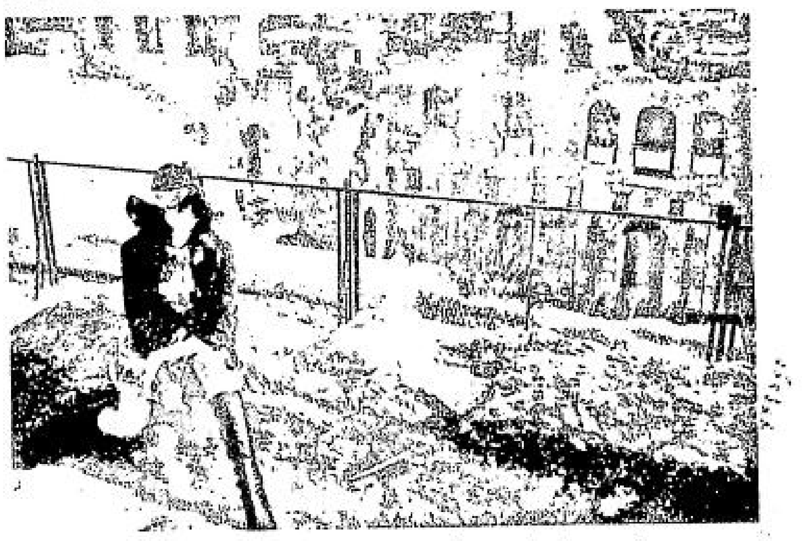
DINNER at 7 p.m. at the famous resto Venezia and the sun was still up

A FLIGHT attendant of Gulf Air trained as Sky Nanny

PHILIPPINE Star's lifestyle editor Millet Mananquil and her husband, businessman Robert M., with Famous man Keren Pascual

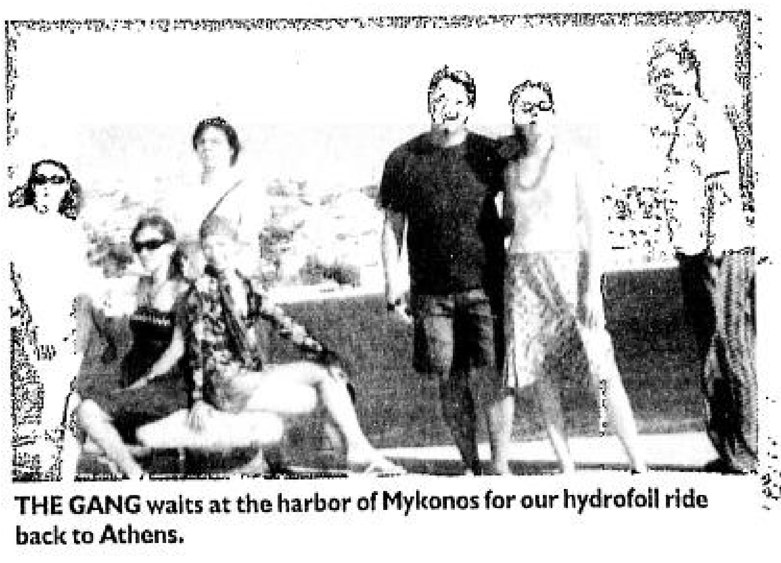


HERBENCH gal Kris Aquino and Bench man Ben Chan by the ruins of the Acropolis



NICOLETTE in Kashieca summer wear, also at the Acropolis

DOING the *syrtaki* in one of the Tavernas in the Plaka Section of Athens



THE GANG waits at the harbor of Mykonos for our hydrofoil ride back to Athens.

Hidden laws of nature

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

WHY is it that when I think of something I want, it comes to me," asks a reader. Another who loves guns was shot and almost killed. A third asks if there are random events or coincidences, while a fourth wonders why some people are born blind, others talented and still others very sickly.

All these illustrate the workings of hidden Cosmic Laws or laws of nature that govern our lives whether we are aware of them or not, whether we believe or not. Since these laws are hidden or esoteric, they cannot be analyzed in laboratories and do not fall within the purview of orthodox science. But they are real.

These hidden laws of nature or Cosmic Laws may be stated as follows: Law of Suggestion or Affirmation, Law of Attraction, Law of Causality and the Law of Compensation.

Let me explain each of them.

Law of Suggestion/Affirmation

This may be expressed thus: "What you suggest or affirm in your mind becomes a reality." This is what governs the process of materialization—making things appear out of nowhere.

The law is based on the principle that what becomes physical reality must first be thought of. The great psychic Edgar Cayce says, "Mind is the builder, the physical is the result."

Stated another way, nothing exists in the physical universe that was not first in the mind of someone. The physical is in the realm of effects, while the mind and the spirit are in the realm of causes.

For example, before a table or chair becomes what it is, it must first exist in the mind of the carpenter. A sculpture must first exist in the mind of the sculptor. Before the sun, the trees and the birds appear, they must first appear in the mind of God.

By the same reasoning, before a person becomes sick physically, he is already sick mentally and spiritually. When we suggest, affirm or visualize something, it becomes a physical reality in the future.

Law of Attraction

This law states: "Like attracts like on the mental and spiritual plane." This is quite the opposite of what happens on the physical plane. The law of magnetism says, "Like poles repel; unlike poles attract."

The law of attraction gives rise to the saying: "Birds of the same feather flock together." You attract what you are. If you are loving and kind, you will be surrounded by loving and kind people; if you are highly negative and heartless, you will be surrounded by people with similar traits.

So don't blame the people around you. Watch yourself and your thoughts and you will surely notice an unmistakable pattern.

Law of Compensation

This law is more popularly known as Karma. It states that, "Everything you do will come back to you in full measure, nothing less and nothing more."

Sometimes known as the Universal Law of Justice, Karma is hinted at in the Bible: "What you sow, you reap."

Karma explains why some people are born sickly, others healthy, why some are rich, others are poor. A person born poor may have abused his wealth in a past life, so in this life he will have to learn frugality and the wise use of money.

Karma comes from the Sanskrit word that means "action." One can incur karma not only by physical action, but also through thoughts. Even if we only think of harming or killing somebody without actually doing it, we have already incurred a karmic debt. That is how strict karmic law is.

You may escape human laws for doing something evil, but you cannot escape the karmic law. You have to face it or pay for it in the next life. You will surely meet the person again the person you owe a karmic debt to and you have to make amends for what you have done to him/her. That is why the law of karma is called the great "leveler." It makes all things equal.

Law of Causality

This law states: "Everything has a cause, nothing happens by chance."

There are no coincidences. Everything that happens is governed by some causal cosmic law or principle.

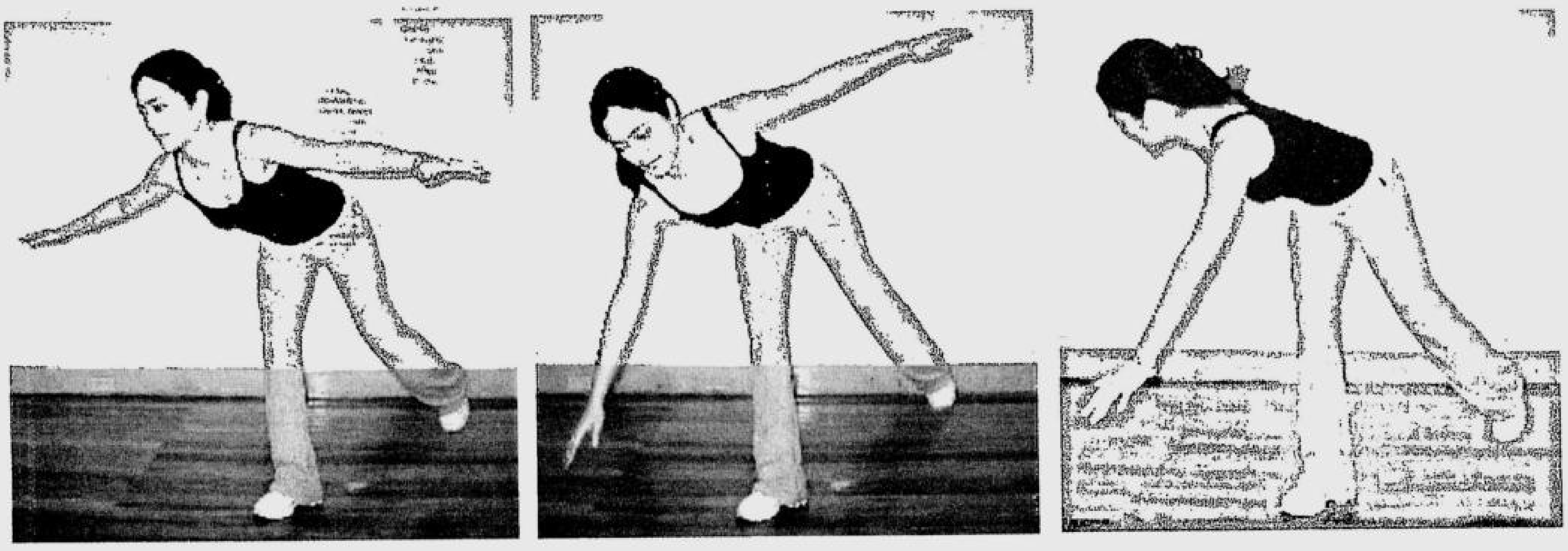
Carl Jung, the great Swiss psychologist, was so intrigued by coincidences that he studied them in depth, calling them "synchronicity." He defined synchronicity as "the simultaneous and meaningful occurrence of two unrelated events."

Coincidences, according to Jung, might only be the end trail of a long series of causally related events. As we only see the tail end, we do not realize at once the connection. The law of causality governs seemingly random or accidental events.

Once we have raised or developed our sense of awareness, we will become conscious of and understand fully the hidden laws of nature. Until then, they will remain mysterious to us.

Address letters to this column to Prince Plaza I, 106 Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806 for information on seminars I conduct. E-mail jtlicauco@tri-isys.com or inner-awareness_2005@yahoo.com, or visit http://www.jlicauco.shorturl.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program, 7:30-8:30 p.m. every Sunday.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



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Standing airplane

THIS exercise strengthens and firms up hips and thighs, challenges core stability and improves balance.

Equipment:

None

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with your legs slightly apart and your arms extended out at shoulder level.
2. Take one foot behind on the floor then slowly lean forward from the hip. Lift your leg behind you and keep your supporting knee slightly bent. This is your starting position.
3. Carefully reach down with arm, return to the starting position, then reach with your other arm just like an airplane dipping its wings from side to side.
4. Do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips:

1. This is an advanced exercise. Beginners can start by just holding their arms steady to develop balance and strength in the legs.
2. Be aware of keeping the knee joint steady to avoid having the knee pushing too far inwards or outwards.
3. Keep your abdominal muscles lightly held in to stabilize your trunk.

Repetitions:

Do five to 10 repetitions per leg.

Accept your body

From page C1

arms might tend to be fat but you have nice firm legs.

- Be realistic about what you don't like. Is it because you have not taken care of your body? You might be complaining about having soft abs but you don't do any abdominal exercises to firm up your mid-section. If this is the case, then take action.
- Do you dislike your body because you are comparing yourself to someone you admire but who has a totally different body type and size? That is not a fair comparison and can only lead to frustration and an unhealthy body image. If you feel you need a role-model, choose someone with a similar body structure.
- Take a reality check and look at the people around you. Realize that very few people have "perfect" bodies. Don't be so hard on yourself.
- Be aware that the models and celebrities you see in fashion and lifestyle magazines look the way they do because they have the advantage of fashion stylists, makeup artists, hairdressers, professional lighting and, sometimes, a little help from digital artists who can do magic with computer editing.
- Learn to use clothes properly to enhance your body's strengths and hide your body's weaknesses. You may not look good in skirts but you look smashing in pants. A book that can help you discover the best way to dress for your body shape is "What not to Wear" by Trinny Woodall and Susannah Constantine. It offers excellent advice for even the most problematic figure types.

Body acceptance

To love your body, you must be comfortable with your appearance. In Prevention magazine, Dr. Elena Ramirez, staff psychologist at a Vermont weight and health management center, suggests a body image exercise to encourage body acceptance.

Ramirez says to acclimate yourself slowly to your image by spending a few seconds a day looking at yourself with clothes on in the mirror. As the days pass, wear less clothes, until you are looking at your body completely naked for a few minutes at a time.

Ramirez says many people cringe when they have to look at their bodies, developing unrealistic ideas of how they really look. By facing your fears, you conquer them.

This exercise helps you to love your body in a healthy way—celebrate your good points, resolve to change whatever bad points are within your power to change and peacefully accept that which you cannot change.

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What is good and bad cholesterol? How does it cause heart disease?

Cholesterol is a fat like substance found naturally in the blood and all body tissues. It also comes from food of animal origin. Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL), commonly known as bad cholesterol, is the major cholesterol carrier in the blood. Too much circulating LDL cholesterol can slowly lead to deposition and build up of cholesterol plaques in the tissues and blood vessel walls like those of arteries delivering blood to the heart and brain. Increased levels in this cholesterol result in a higher risk of developing coronary heart disease. The optimal level for LDL is <100 mg/dl. High Density Lipoprotein (HDL) on the other hand is the good cholesterol and unlike LDL, HDL tends to carry cholesterol away from the tissues to the liver to be metabolized and eliminated by the body. The desirable level of HDL is · 40 mg/dl.

Coronary heart disease is a leading cause of sickness and death in our country and almost all over the world. The disease is caused by atherosclerosis, which simply put is a blood vessel disease in which the inner linings of arteries become thick and irregular because of deposits of fat, cholesterol and other substances. A non-modifiable risk factor to this heart disease is dyslipedemia, which is a state of increased total cholesterol, low density lipoprotein and a low level of good cholesterol as well as triglycerides.

This week's answer to our feature question on cholesterol was provided by our accredited specialist from Fatima Medical Center (FMC), Dr. Rebecca W. Deduyo. Dr. Deduyo, a Medicine graduate of MCU, specializes in Internal Medicine. She also holds subspecialty in Adult Cardiology and Echocardiograpy. Currently, Dr. Deduyo is a professor of Medicine for the Our Lady of Fatima University. She is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, an Associate Fellow of the Philippine Heart Association and Professional members to a number of renowned specialty organizations like the American Heart Association and Philippine Society of Hypertension. Members may visit her for consultations at Room 201, the New Medicine Bldg. of FMC from Mondays to Saturdays, 1:30 to 6 in the evening.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

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Cheezee. SAUSAGE
HOTDOG
HOTDOG-FLAVORED CHEESE with HOTDOG Bits
Cheezee. SAUSAGE
ANG CHEEZEE KASI!

Mukhang sausage
pero hindi sausage.
Cheese na lasang hotdog
pero hindi cheesedog.
Ano 'to? Eh 'di Magnolia
Cheezee Sausage!
2-in-1 sarap ng
hotdog and cheese.

DR. VICENTE Castillo shows with his hands the size of the tumor he and Dr. San Gabriel Jr. extracted from a patient.

AT THE OPERATING table. Maia Lardizabal, Dr. Vicente Castillo, Dr. Ignacio San Gabriel, Jr. and two volunteer nurses from Kalibo

Cell phones save the day

A POWER failure during a recent two-day medical mission in Kalibo, Aklan, showed that the cellular phone was more than just a tool for communication.

Dr. Ignacio San Gabriel, Jr., chair of the surgery department of Asian Hospital and Medical Center, and Dr. Vicente Castillo, plastic surgeon of AHMC, completed an operation illuminated by the built-in flashlight of cellular phones.

The Kalibo mission was organized by the Guiding Light Ministries of Aklan and 403rd Transport Battalion.

The surgeons were extracting a tumor from a patient when the brownout occurred. Dr. Castillo, a long-time Globe postpaid subscriber, thought of using his cellular phone's flashlight for illumination. The surgery was completed with the use of three more cell phones.

Aside from Drs. Castillo and San Gabriel, the surgical team also included Maia Lardizabal, R.N., attending volunteer nurse from AHMC, and two nurses from the Kalibo Hospital.

The mission performed about 500 major and minor surgeries benefiting over 1,000 Aklanons. Surgeries were performed at the Ramon Tumbocon Memorial Hospital in Kalibo.

Managing AD/HD with love and confidence

THE AD/HD Society of the Philippines, in cooperation with The Miriam College Graduate School, will hold a seminar on Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, "Managing AD/HD: Discipline With Love And Confidence," on July 30, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Little Theater, Paz Adriano Bldg., Miriam College, Katipunan Road, Quezon City.

The main speaker is Sandy Malone-Long, a counselor/psychologist in Bellevue Washington School District, who helped develop the parenting program at the Center for Attentional Deficit Disorders in Redmond, Washington. She was one of the main speakers at the second National Conference on AD/HD in Manila in October last year.

Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD) affects 3 to 4 percent of all children. It is characterized by persistently high levels of inattentive, hyperactive and impulsive behavior that are usually inconsistent with the level of development of a child. While it is a very common behavioral disorder among children, it is often left undiagnosed and at worst, misunderstood.

Parents, educators and medical professionals are invited to participate in the seminar.

Due to limited slots, interested parties are encouraged to register before July 20 and avail of discounted participation fees: P900 for members and P1,100 for non-members.

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INQUIRER TV GUIDE

HOLLYWOOD DREAM
Hosted by Eric Quizon

THE DREAM BEGINS JULY 17! The much-talked - about reality show "Hollywood Dream" will finally begin! Find out who will get a chance to fly to New York and Los Angeles, meet Hollywood producers and casting directors, get a Screen Actors Guild card, appear on "As the World Turns" and land a role in 2 movies being produced in Hollywood!
SUNDAY 9:00 PM
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN					Teledyaryo	Value Vision		Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		The Working President	Family Rosary Crusade	Teledyaryo		Network Forum		Auto Focus			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Green Rose	Oh! Feel Young	Bora			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		FIBA (Reruns)				Sentro	Lizzie Mcguire	ABC Action Movies				Big News	The Probe Team Documentaries		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	Tenjho Tenge	Shaman King	Full Metal Alchemist	Full House	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	The Insider	Tough Enough	7 Days		Medium		Cold Case		Newswatch Now	Emancipation Mariah Carey		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		MTV				TM Phil 9-Ball		Nuts	IBC News Tonite	MTV	
SBN 21		Morph TV		Oras Ng Himala		SBN Sing Along		Powerline	Gospel Of The Kingdom			Give Us This Day		Behold		The Kingdom Of Jesus Christ		Evening Devotions	
Studio 23								Get Backers	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	The Rebel Billionaire	Angel		Smallville		News Central	Oprah		The Men's Room
MTV Philippines	MTV Screen	Making The Movie Fantastic Four	MTV Get Spotted		Laguna Beach # 103	Hangin Out at MTV		TRL		MTV Play		MTV Divas		One Badtrip # 206	Newlyweds # 310	Advance Warning # 108	Handpicked: Parokya ni Edgar	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops	Mobile MYX Top Picks	My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN				Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	Tour De France 2005	World Snooker Trick Shot Masters '05				2005 WPBA West Coast Classic		Sportscenter Asia	2004 BCA Open 9-Ball C'ships Finals		LPGA Golf				Sportscenter Asia
Sports Plus											Tour De France					Tour De France	Celebrity Poker		
Cinemax			Marjorie Morningstar				The Butcher's Wife			Body Double (7:15 PM)				Momentum			Maverick		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Regenesis		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Regenesis		Virtual Mom			Missing (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Land Before Time IV Journey Through The Mists			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Dinosaur Island	
Discovery Channel		Ramesses: Wrath Of God Or Man?				Polar Bear Battlefields		Wild Weather		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		The Dangerman Adventures of Geoff Mackley		Science Mysteries	
National Geographic		Air Crash Investigation		Seconds From Disaster		Interpol Investigates		Wildlife Detectives	Insects From Hell		Wow	About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Air Crash Investigation		Seconds From Disaster	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers		Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls		Time Squad	Thundercats	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		E! True Hollywood Story		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World	Frasier	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed		Desperate Housewives	Oprah Winfrey Show	Miss Match		Friends	Ed
AXN		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami		Record Setters		The Associates (Season II)		Beastmaster		Ripley's Believe It or Not		CSI: NY (Season I)		The Amazing Race 6		WRC 2005: Argentina	
JackTV	Just For Laughs	Just For Laughs	Hip Hop Nation	WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		X-Play	Banzai	Mad Tv		Trigger Happy TV	Primetime Glick	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Stripperella	Family Guy	Wwe Heat	
ETC		Good Morning Miami	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	JKX	Simple Life	One Tree Hill		Who Wants To Marry My Dad		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			Open Season (3:35 PM)				Fatal Woman (5:20 PM)			How To Deal			Cat In The Hat (8:40 PM)			Undefeated			Doc Hollywood
Star Movies				Madeline			Beethoven's 2nd (5:35 PM)			Father of the Bride (7:10 PM)				Johnny English			In Hell		
Cinema One		Ulilang Anghel				Soltera				Home Sic Home				Daddy Knows Best				Tigasin	
EWTN	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Mysteries Of The Rosary	My Little Angels	Angel Force	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Fr. Groeschel	Catholic Morality & The Catechism	EWTN Gallery	The Journey Home		Does The Church Still Teach That	Lord, Have Mercy	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	We Are One Body	Web Of Faith	

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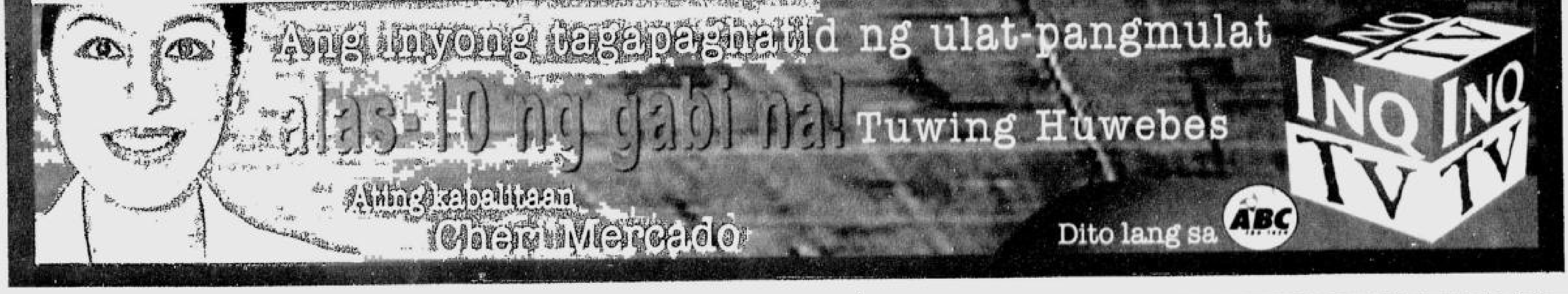

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